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P A P I S T  
MISREPRESENTED,  
A N D  
REPRESENTED.

O R A

Twofold Character  
O F  
P O P E R Y.

T H E O N E

Containing a Sum of the Superstitions, Idolatries,  
Cruelties, Treacheries, and wicked Principles laid  
to the Papists Charge by their Adversaries.

T H E O T H E R

Laying open that POPERY which the *Papists* own  
and profess; with the chief Articles of their Faith,  
and some of the principal Grounds and Reasons  
which hold them in that Religion.

Abridged from that published by  
Mr. JOHN GOTHER,  
Anno 1685. v





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# A P A P I S T

## Misrepresented and Represented :

O R,

*A twofold Character of Popery.*

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### The I N T R O D U C T I O N.

THE father of lies is the *author* of misrepresenting. He first made the experiment of this black art in paradise; having no surer way of bringing God's precept into contempt, and making our *first parents* transgress, than by misrepresenting the *command*, which their *Maker* had laid upon them. And so unhappily successful he was in this his first attempt, that this has been his chief stratagem ever since, for maintaining himself in his usurpation, and propagating error and vice amongst men by discrediting virtue and truth: and therefore there has nothing of good yet come into the world, nothing been sent from Heaven, but what has met with this opposition; the common enemy having employed all his endeavours to bring it into discredit, and render it infamous, by misrepresenting it. Of this there are frequent instances in scripture, and more in church history. The truth of it was experienced on the person of *Christ* himself, who, though he was the *Son of God*, the *immaculate Lamb*, yet was he not out of the reach of *calumny*, nor exempt from being misrepresented. See in the gospel how he was painted by malicious men, the ministers of *Satan*, as a *prophane and wicked man*, a *breaker of the Sabbath*, a *glutton*, a *friend and a companion of publicans and sinners*, a *conjurer*, a *traitor*, a *seducer*, a *raiser of seditions*, a *Samaritan*, and full of the *devil*; he hath *Belzebub*, said they, and by the *prince of the devils*, casteth he out devils. (Mark iii. 22.) There being no other way of frightening the people from embracing

the truth, and following the Son of God, but by thus disfiguring him to the multitude, reporting light to be darkness, and God to be the devil. The disciples of Christ every where met with the like treatment. The people were stirred up against St. Stephen by misrepresentation; because they heard he had spoke blasphemous words against Moses, and against God, (Acts vi. 11.) And against Paul, because they were told he taught all men every where against the people, and polluted the holy place, (Acts xxi. 28.) They charged him also with being a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, (Acts xxiv. 5.) Neither did these calumnies, these wicked misrepresentations stop here; he that said, *the disciple is not above his master, and if they have called the master of the house B. Izebub; how much more shall they call them of his house. ould?* (Matt. x. 24, 25.) did not only foretell what was to happen to his followers then present, but also to the faithful that were to succeed them, and to his church in future ages, they being all to expect the like treatment; so that though they should be never so just to God and their neighbour, upright in their ways, and live in the fear of God, and the observance of his laws; yet must they certainly be reviled and hated by the world, made a by-word to the people, have the repute of seducers, and be a scandal to all nations. And has not this been verified in all ages? See what was the state of Christians in the primitive times, when as yet vice had not corrupted the purity of the morals of the generality of the faithful. It is almost impossible to believe in what contempt they were, and how utterly abominated. *Tertullian*, who was an eye witness, gives us so lamentable an account of the Christians in his time, that it is able to move compassion in stones. He tells us, so many malicious slanders were dispersed abroad concerning the manner of their worship; and their whole religion described, not only to be mere folly, and folly, but also to be grounded on most hellish principles, and to be so full of impieties, that the heathens believed a man could not make profession of Christianity, without being tainted with all sorts of crimes; without being an enemy to the Gods, to princes, to the laws, to good

*manners,*

manners, and to nature itself. So that christianity, was wholly infamous amongst the heathens, condemned and detested by all, and most bloody persecutions raised against the professors of it, while they were guilty of no other crime but adhering to the truth. And it was these *calumnies*, these *false accusations* (invented to cry down the christian religion,) obliged *Tertullian* to write his *Apology*, wherein he declared to the world, that christianity was nothing-like that, which the heathens imagined to be: that *idolatry*, *superstition*, *impiety*, *cruelty*, *treachery*, *conspiracies*, &c. was none of their *doctrine*, but condemned and detested by them; that these *crimes* were only the *malicious inventions* of the *heathenish priest*, who finding themselves unable to withstand the force of christianity, had no other way to preserve themselves in *repute*, and keep the people in their *error*, than by forming an ugly, odious, and most horrid *wvisor*, a *damnable scheme* of *religion*, and then holding the same forth to the world, and crying out, *This is the religion of the Christians, these are their principles; behold their ignorance, their stupidity, their prophaneness; behold their insolence, their villainies; a people unsufferable in a common-wealth, enemies to their country and their prince:* and thus representing it as *monstrous* as they pleased, they brought an *odium* upon as many as owned that *name*, and condemned them for *folly* and *crimes*, that were no where, but in their own *imagination*. And now, when by the propagation of christianity, and the laborious endeavours of her professors, heathenism was pretty well extinct; yet was not the mouth of *malice* stopped; the *calumnies*, which had been invented by the *infidels*, being taken up by *evil Christians*. No one going out from the communion of the church of Christ, but what did, by reviving *old scandals*, (and the addition of *fresh ones*) endeavour to make her *infamous*, and *blacken* her with such *crimes*, as could be thought most convenient for rendering her *odious* to all. It being looked upon by as many as ever *went out* of her, the best means to justify their *separation*, and to gain to themselves the credit of *orthodox Christians*; to paint her out in all the *antichristian* colours, and represent her as *hellish*, as wickedness could

make her. It is strange how much she suffered in this point from the *Manichees*, and from the *Donatists*, and how much pains it cost Saint *Augustine*, to prove their accusations to be mere calumnies, principally intended to raise prejudices in the minds of the people against her; that so being convinced by these hellish artifices, of her teaching unsound and *prophædoctrine*, wicked principles and human inventions instead of *faith*, they might never think of going to her, to learn the *truth*; nor even so much as suspect her to be the *church* of Christ. This, Saint *Augustine* complains, was the chief cause of his continuing in the error of the *Manichees* so long; and that he impugned with so much violence this *church*. And therefore, after he was come to the knowledge of the *truth*, he discovered this to the world for the undeceiving others, who were caught in the same snare, making it part of his confessions, (*Confess. l. vi C. 3.*) *When I came to discover*, says he, *that — I mingled joy and bluster, and was ashamed, that I had now for so many years been barking and railing, not against the catholick faith, but only against the fictions of my carnal concents.* For so temerarious and impious was I, that these things, which I ought first to have learned from them by enquiry, I charged upon them by accusation; readier to impose falsehoods, than to be informed of the truth. — *And thus I so blindly accused the catholick church; now sufficiently cleared to me that she taught not the opinions I so vehemently persecuted.* And this he did, deluded and deceived by the *Manichees*. And now since it is certain, that this has not been the case of St. *Augustine* alone, but of as many almost as have given ear to the *deserters* of this *church*; nay, is at this day the case of infinite numbers, who following that great *Father*, when as yet in his errors do not enquire, how this thing is believed or understood by her, but insultingly oppose all; as if so understood, as they imagine; not making any difference betwixt that which the catholick *church* teaches, and what they think she teaches; and so believing her to be guilty of as many absurdities, follies, impieties, &c. as the *heathens* did of old. It is evident, there is as much need now of *apologies* as ever there was in *Tertullian's*, or *Saint Augustine's* time. *Not apologies*

apologies to vindicate what is really her faith and doctrine; but rather to clear her from such superstitions, prophaneities, and wicked principles, as are maliciously or ignorantly charged upon her. And though the number of calumnies, the insincerity of adversaries, the obstinacy of a biased education, render a performance in this kind a just task for a *Tertullian's*, or *St. Augustine's* hand; yet because I find no such eminent pen engaged in this design at present; and the shewing the true religion in its own colours, seems a duty incumbent on every one that is a lover of truth; I will endeavour to pull off the visor from *supposing* *christianity*, and apologize for the *catholic* *faith*; that faith I mean, maintained by those primitive fathers, with so much vigour and zeal; which being first planted in the head city of the world by *St. Peter*, hath been propagated throughout the universe, and derived down to us by many *christian* nations, in communion with that See, under the protection of the *Holy Ghost*, and the charge of a chief pastor, which beginning in that great *apostle*, has continued in a visible succession to these our days. This *faith* it is, for which at present I design to make an apology, which having been in all ages violently opposed, does at this time most *wrongfully* suffer, under *calumnies* and *false imputations*. I will endeavour therefore to separate these *calumnies* and *scandals*, from what is really the *faith* and *doctrine* of that church; I will take off the *black* and *dirt*, which has been thrown upon her; and setting her forth in her *genuine* *complexion*, let the world see how much fairer she is, than she is painted; and how much she is unlike that *monster*, which is shewn for her. And because the members of this church are commonly known by the name of *papists*; I think I cannot take a more sincere, open, and compendious way, in order to the compleating this design, than by drawing forth a *double* *character* of a *papist*: The one expressing a *papist* in those very colours, as he is painted in the *imagination* of the *vulgar*, most *foolish*, *black*, and *antichristian*; with the chief *articles* of his *imagined* *belief*, and *reputed* *principles* of his *profession*. The other representing a *papist*, whose *faith* and *exercise* of his *religion*, is according to the *direction* and *command* of

x A Papist misrepresented and represented.

of his church. That so these two being thus set together, their difference and disproportion may be clearly discerned, and a discovery made how unlike calumny is from truth ; and how different a papist really is, from what he is said to be. The former character is of a papist misrepresented ; the other of a papist represented. The former is a papist so deformed and monstrous, that he justly deserves the hatred of as many as own christianity. The other papist is one, that lives and believes according to what is prescribed in the council of Trent, in the catechisms set forth by catholicks, and other spiritual books for the direction and instruction of all in their communion, whose faith and doctrine I have here set down, with some grounds and reasons of it, and will so leave it to apologize for itself. In drawing out the character of the former, I have quoted no authors, but have described him exactly according to the apprehension I had of a papist framed by me when I was a protestant ; with the addition only of some few points, which have been violently charged against me by some intimate friends of late, to shew the unreasonableness of my choice, after the quitting of that communion. The latter is wholly copied out from the papist that I am now ; being the sum of what I was taught, when reconciled to the church of Rome, and which after sixteen years conversation with men of that communion, in hearing their sermons, in being present at their catechising, in reading their books, and discoursing with them, I have found to be their doctrine. I have done both, I hope, with sincerity and truth, and without passion. For as my endeavours have been that my religion should lose nothing by lies, so neither do I desire it should gain by them ; and did I but know of any thing in the following papers, that has any relation to that antichristian artifice, I would strike it out immediately. And do here oblige myself, upon information, either from friend or adversary, to acknowledge the mistake, as it shall be made appear, and make a publick recantation. But it is time, we should see what these papists are.

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# A P A P I S T

## Misrepresented and Represented.

### 1. Of praying to Images.

**A** Papist misrepresented, worships stocks and stones for gods; He takes no notice of the Second Commandment, but setting up pictures, and images of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and other his saints, he prays to them, and puts his trust and confidence in them; much like as the Heathens did in their wooden gods, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, &c. And for this reason, he erects stately monuments to them in his churches, adorns them sumptuously, burns candles, offers incense, and frequently falls down prostrate before them, and with his eyes fixed on them, cries out, Help me, Mary, assist me, Anthony, remember me, Ignatius.

**A** Papist truly represented believes it damnable to worship stocks and stones for gods, to pray to pictures or images of Christ, of the virgin Mary, or of any other saints, to believe any virtue or divinity in them, or to put any trust or confidence in them. He is expressly taught the contrary to all this by the council of Trent (Sess. 25) and his very children are instructed in their catechisms (which are in the hands of all) that they must by no means pray to pictures or images, because they can neither see, nor hear, nor help them. See *Abstract of the Doway Catechism*, upon the first Commandment. *Abridgement of Christian Doctrine*, Chapter IV. &c. But what use then does the papist make of pictures or images of Christ, of the blessed Virgin, or other saints? Why, he keeps them by him to preserve in his mind the memory of the person represented by them;

2 *A Papist misrepresented and represented.*

as people are wont to preserve the memory of their deceased friends by keeping their pictures. He is taught to use them, so as to cast his eyes upon the *pictures* or *images*, and thence to raise his heart to the things represented, and there to employ it in meditation, love, and thanksgiving, desire of imitation, &c. as the object requires: As many good Christians, placing a *Death's head* before them, from the sight of it take occasion to reflect often upon their last end, in order to their better preparing for it; or by seeing *Old Time* painted with his *fore-lock*, *hour-glass* and *scythe*, turn their thoughts upon the swiftness of time, and that whosoever neglects the *present*, is in danger of beginning then to desire to lay hold of it when there is no more to come. These *pictures* or *images* having this advantage, that they inform the mind by *one glance* of what in reading might require a whole *chapter*. There being no other difference between them, than that *reading* represents *leisurely*, and by *degrees*; and a *picture*, *all at once*. Hence he finds a convenience in saying his *prayers* with some devout *pictures* before him, he being no sooner distracted, but the sight of these recalls his wandering thoughts to the right object; and as certainly brings something good into his mind, as an *immodest picture* disturbs his heart with filthy thoughts. And because he is sensible that these holy *pictures* and *images* represent and bring to his mind *such objects*, as in his heart he loves, honours, and venerates; he cannot but upon that account love, honour, and respect the *images themselves*. As whosoever loves their *husband*, *child*, or *friend*, cannot but have some love and respect for their *pictures*; who-soever loves and honours his *king*, will have some honour and regard for his *image*. Not that he venerates any *image*, or *picture*, for any *virtue* or *divinity* believed to be in them, or for any thing that is to be petitioned of them; but because the honour, that is exhibited to them, is referred to those whom they represent. So that 'tis not properly the *images* he honours, but *Christ* and his *Saints* by the *images*: As it is not properly the *images* or *pictures* of kings or other men that we respect or injure; but by their *images* or *pictures* we respect or injure the persons themselves.



themselves. All the veneration therefore he expresses before *images*, whether by kneeling, lifting up the eyes, burning candles, incense, &c. it is not at all done for the *Image*, but is wholly referred to the things represented, which he intends to honour by these actions. And how, by so doing, he breaks the *second Commandment*, he cannot conceive; for he acknowledges only *one God*, and to him alone gives sovereign honour; and whatsoever respect he shews to a crucifix, picture or image, seems to him no more injurious to any of the *Commandments*, than it is for a Christian to love and honour his *neighbour*, because he bears the *image of God* in his *soul*; to kiss and esteem the *Bible*, because it *contains* and *represents* to him *God's word*; or to love a good *preacher*, because he *minds* him of his *duty*; all which *respects* do not at all derogate from *God Almighty's honour*: but are rather testimonies of our great love and honour of him, since, for his sake, we love and esteem every thing, that has any respect or relation to him.

## 2. Of worshipping Saints.

**T**HE Papist misrepresented, makes gods of dead men, such as are departed hence, and are now no more able to hear, or see, or understand his necessities. And though God be so good as to invite all to come unto him, and to apply themselves to their only and infinite Mediator Jesus Christ: yet so stupid is he, that neglecting, and, as it were, passing by both God and his only Son, and all their mercies, he betakes himself to his saints, and there pouring forth his prayers, he confides in them as his mediators and redeemers, and expects no blessing, but what is to come to him by their merits, and through their hands: And thus, without scruple or remorse, he robs God of his honour.

**T**HE Papist truly represented believes there is only one God, and that it is a most damnable *idolatry* to make gods of men, either living or dead. His church teaches him indeed, (and he believes) That it is good and profitable

#### 4. A Papist misrepresented and represented.

profitable to desire the intercession of the Saints reigning with Christ in heaven: but that they are gods, or his redeemer, he is no where taught; but detests all such doctrine. He confesses that we are all redeemed by the blood of Christ alone, and that he is our only Mediator of Redemption: But as for mediators of intercession, (that is, such as we may lawfully desire to pray for us) he does not doubt, but it is acceptable to God, we should have many. *Moses* was such a mediator for the *Israelites*; *Job* for his three friends; *Stephen* for his persecutors. The *Romans* were thus desired by St. *Paul* to be his mediators; so were the *Corinthians*, so the *Ephesians*, Ep. ad *Rom. Cor. Eph*; so almost every sick man desires the congregation to be his Mediators; by remembering him in their prayers. And so the Papist desires the blessed in heaven to be his mediators; that is, that they would pray to God for him. And in this, he does not at all neglect coming to God, or rob him of his honour; but directing all his prayers up to him, and making him the ultimate object of all his petitions, he only desires sometimes the just on earth, sometimes those in heaven, to join their prayers to his, that so the number of petitioners being increas'd, the petition may find better acceptance in the sight of God. And this is not to make them gods, but only petitioners to God; it is not to make them his redeemers, but only intercessors to his Redeemer; he having no hopes of obtaining any thing, but of God alone, by, and through the merits of Christ; for which he desires the saints in heaven, and good men on earth, to offer up their prayers with his; the prayers of the just availing much before God. But now, how the saints in heaven know the prayers and necessities of such, who address themselves to them, whether by the ministry of angels, or in the vision of God, or by some particular revelation, 'tis no part of his faith, nor is it much his concern it should be determined. For his part he does not doubt, but that God, who acquainted the prophets with the knowledge of things, that were yet to come many hundred years after; that inform'd *Elisha* of the King of *Syria*'s counsel, though privately resolved on in his bedchamber, and at a distance (2 Kings vi. 12.) can never want means of letting

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the *saints* know the desires of those who beg their *intercession* here on earth: especially since our Saviour informs us, (Luke xvi.) that *Abraham* heard the petitions of *Dives*, who was yet at a greater distance, even in *hell*; and told him likewise the manner of his living, while as yet on earth. Nay, since it is generally allow'd, that even the very *devils* hear those desperate wretches, who call on them: why then should he doubt, that the *Saints* wan: this privilege, who (though departed this life) are not so properly *dead*, as translated from a mortal life, to an immortal one; where, enjoying God Almighty, they lose no perfections which they enjoyed while on earth, but possess all in a more *eminent* manner; having more *charity*, more knowledge, more interest with God than ever; and becoming like *angels* (Luke xx. 36.) And as these offered up their prayers for *Jerusalem*, and the cities of *Judah*, (Zach. i. 12.) so undoubtedly they likewise fall down before the *Lamb*, having every one of them *harps*, and golden *vials* full of *odours*, which are the *prayers* of the *Saints*, Apoc. v. 8.

### 3. Of addressing more *Supplications* to the *Virgin Mary* than to *Christ*.

**T**HE Papist misrepresented believes the *Virgin Mary* to be much more powerful in heaven than *Christ*, and that she can command him to do what she thinks good: And for this reason he honours her much more than he does her Son, or God the Father; for one prayer he says to God, saying ten to the holy *Virgin*.

**T**HE Papist truly represented believes it damnable to think the *Virgin Mary* more powerful in heaven than *Christ*; or that she can in any thing command him. He honours her indeed, as one that was chosen to be *Mother of God*, and blessed amongst all women: and believes her to be most acceptable to God, in her intercession for us: but owning her still as a *creature*, and that all she has of excellency is the *gift of God*, proceeding from his meer

## 6 A Papist misrepresented and represented.

goodness. Neither does he at any time say even so much as one prayer to her, but what is directed *more principally* to God; because offered up as a thankful memorial of Christ's incarnation, and acknowledgement of the *blessedness* of Jesus the fruit of her womb. And this without imagining that there is any more dishonouring of God in his reciting the *Angelical Salutation*, than in the first pronouncing it by the Angel Gabriel and Elizabeth: or that his frequent repetition of it is any more an idle superstition, than it was in *David* to repeat the same words over twenty-six times in the cxxxvi. *Psalm*.

### 4. Of paying divine worship to Relicks.

**T**HE Papist misrepresented believes a kind of divinity to remain in the Relicks of his reputed Saints, and therefore adores their rotten bones, their corrupted flesh, their old rags, with divine honour; kneeling down to them, kissing them, and going in pilgrimage to their shrines and sepulchres. And he is so far possess'd with a conceited deity lying hid in those senseless remains, that he foolishly believes they work greater miracles, and raise more to life than ever Christ himself did.

**T**HE Papist truly represented believes it damnable to think there is any divinity in the Relicks of Saints, or to adore them with divine honour, or to pray to their rotten bones, old rags or shrines, or that they can work any strange cures or miracles, by any hidden power of their own. But he believes it good and lawful to keep them with veneration, and to give them a religious honour and respect. And this he thinks due to them, in as much as knowing himself obliged to respect and honour God Almighty from his heart; he looks upon himself as obliged to respect and honour every thing that has any particular relation to him: But this with an *inferiour* honour; such as the Jews shewed to the Ark, to the Tables of the Law, to Moses's rod, to the Temple, to the Priests: Such as we generally allow the *Bible*, because it contains God's word; to the *Church*, because it is God's house; to holy men

men and priests, because they are God's Servants. And so he does to *relics*, because they appertain to God's *favourites*: and, being insensible things, are yet sensible pledges, and lively *Memorials* of Christ's servants, dead indeed to this world, but alive with him in glory. And more especially, because God himself has been pleased to honour them, by making them *instruments* of many evident *miracles* which he has visibly worked by them; as is manifest upon undeniable record. And this he believes as easy for God Almighty now, and as much redounding to the honour of his holy name, as it was in the *old law*, to work such miraculous effects by *Moses*'s rod, by *Elias*'s *mantle*, after he was taken up into heaven, (*2 Kings* ii. 14.) *Eliseus*'s *bones*, (*2 Kings* xiii. 21.) and infinite other such like *insensible things*: And also in the *new law*, by the *hem* of his own *garment*, (*Mat.* ix. 21.) by the *shadow* of St. Peter, (*Acts* v. 15.) by the *napkins* and *handkerchiefs* that had but touched the body of St. *Paul*, casting out devils, and curing diseases, (*Acts* xix. 12.) and such like. And thus by having a veneration and respect for these, he honours God: and does not doubt, but that they that contemn and profane these, do the like to God, as much as they did, who profaned the *bread of proposition*, the *temple*, and *vessels* that belonged to it.

### 5. Of the *Eucharist*.

**T**HE Papist *misrepresented* believes it lawful to commit *Idolatry*, and makes it his daily practice to *worship* and *adore* a *breaden god*, giving *divine honour* to those poor, empty elements of bread and wine. Of these he asks *pardon* for his sins; of these he desires *grace* and *salvation*; these he acknowledges to have been his *redeemer* and *saviour*, and hopes for no good but what is to come to him by means of these *household gods*. And then for his *apology*, he alleges such *gross contradictions*, so contrary to all *sense* and *reason*, that *whoever will be a Papist, must be no man*: fondly believing, that what he adores is no *bread* or *wine*, but *Christ* *really present* under those *appearances*; and thus makes as many *Christs*, as many *redeemers* as there are

8 *A Papist misrepresented and represented.*

churches, altars or priests. When according to God's infallible word, there is but one Christ, and he not on earth, but at the right hand of his Father in heaven.

THE Papist truly represented believes it abominable to commit any kind of idolatry ; and most damnable to worship or adore a *breaden god*, or to give divine honour to the elements of bread and wine. He worships only one God, who made heaven and earth, and his only Son Jesus Christ our redeemer ; who, being in all things equal to his Father, in truth and omnipotency, he believes, made his words good, pronounced at his last supper ; really giving his body and blood to his apostles ; the substance of bread and wine being by his powerful words changed into his own body and blood, the *species* or appearances of the bread and wine remaining as before. The same he believes of the most holy sacrament of the *Eucharist*, consecrated now by priests ; that it really contains the body of Christ, which was delivered for us ; and his blood, which was shed for the remission of sins : which being there united with the *divinity*, he confesses *whole Christ* to be present. And *him* he adores and acknowledges his *redeemer*, and not any bread or wine. And for the believing of this *mystery*, he does not at all think it meet for any christian to appeal from Christ's *word*, to his own *senses* or *reason*, for the examining the truth of what he has said, but rather to submit his *senses* and *reason* to Christ's *words* in the obsequiousness of faith : and that being a son of *Abraham*, it is more becoming him to believe as *Abraham* did, promptly, with a faith *superior* to all *sense* or *reason*, and whither *these* could never lead him. With this *faith* it is he believes every *mystery* of his religion, the *trinity*, *incarnation*, &c. With this *faith* he believes that what descended upon our *Saviour* at his baptism in *Jordan*, was really the *Holy Ghost*, though *senses* or *reason* could discover it to be nothing but a *dove* ; with this *faith* he believes that the man that *Joshua* saw standing over-against him with his sword drawn, (*Josh. v. 13.*) and the three men that *Abraham* entertained in the plains of *Mambre*, (*Gen. xviii.*) were really and substantially no men ;

men; and that notwithstanding all the information and evidence of *sense*, from their colour, features, proportion, talking, eating, &c. of their being men; yet, without any discredit to his senses, he really believes they were no such thing, because *God's word* has assured him of the contrary: and with *this faith* he believes Christ's *body and blood* to be really present in the blessed sacrament, though, to all outward appearance, there is nothing more than bread and wine: Thus, not at all hearkening to his *senses* in a matter where God speaks, he unfeignedly confesses, that he that made the world of nothing by his sole word: that cured diseases by his word: that raised the dead by his word: that commanded the winds and seas: that multiplied bread: that changed water into wine by his word, and sinners into just men, cannot want power to *change* bread and wine into his own body and blood by his *sole word*. And this without danger of multiplying his body, of making as many Christs as Altars, or leaving the right hand of his *Father*. But only by giving to his body a *supernatural* manner of *existence*; by which, being without *extension* of parts, rendered *independent* of place, it may be one and the same in many places at once, and whole in every part of the symbols, and not obnoxious to any corporeal contingencies. And this kind of existence is no more, than what in a manner he bestows upon every *glorified body*: than what his own body had, when born without the least violation of his mother's virginal integrity: when he arose from the dead, out of the sepulchre, without removing the stone: when he entered amongst his disciples, the doors being shut. And though he cannot understand how this is done, yet he undoubtedly believes, that God is able to do more than he is able to understand.

#### 6. Of Merits and Good-works.

**T**HE Papist *misrepresented* believes Christ's *death and passion* to be *ineffectual*, and *insignificant*, and that he has no dependance upon the merits of his sufferings, or the *mercy of God* for the obtaining *salvation*; but that he is to be *saved* by his own *merits*. And, for this reason, he is

10 *A Papist misrepresented and represented.*

very zealously busy in fasting, in watching, in going in procession, in wearing hair-skirts, and using a thousand such like mortifications: And having done this, he thinks himself not at all beholden to God for his salvation, and that to give him heaven, will be no favour: It being now his due, upon the account of his own meritorious achievements, without any God-a-mercy to Christ's passion, or his maker's goodness.

**T**HE Papist truly represented believes it damnable to say that Christ's death and passion is ineffectual and insignificant: And that it is the doctrine of devils to believe, that he has no dependance for his salvation upon the merits of Christ's sufferings, or the mercy of God; but only upon his own merits and good works. It is his faith to believe, that of ourselves we are not sufficient, so much as to think a good thought, that the grace by which we are justified, is given us purely *gratis* upon the account of Christ's merits; moreover, that no man, how just soever, can merit any thing, either in this life, or in that to come, independent on the merits and passion of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, that through the merits of Christ, the good works of a just man proceeding from grace, are so acceptable to God, that through his *goodness* and *promise*, they are truly *meritorious* of eternal life: And this he has learned from the apostle, (2 Tim. iv. 8.) where he is taught, that there is a crown of justice, which our Lord, a just judge, will render at the last day, not only to Saint Paul, but also to all those, that shall have fought a good fight, and consummated their course, kept the faith, and loved his coming. Knowing therefore that at the day of judgment, he is to receive according to his works; he endeavours by *good works* to make his *vocation* and *election* *sure*, (2 Peter i. 10.) And in following this counsel, he thinks he no more offends against the fulness of the merits of Christ, or God's mercy, than the apostle does in giving it.

7. Of Confession.

THE Papist misrepresented believes it part of his religion to make gods of men; foolishly thinking that these have power to forgive sins. And therefore as often as he finds his conscience oppressed with the guilt of his offences, he calls for one of his priests, and having ran over a catalogue of his sins, he asks of him pardon and forgiveness. And what is most absurd of all, he is so stupid as to believe, that, if his Ghostly Father, after he has heard all his villainies in his ear, does but pronounce three or four Latin words, over his head, his sins are forgiven him, although he had never any thoughts of amendment, or intention to forsake his wickedness.

THE Papist truly represented believes it damnable in any religion to make gods of men. However he firmly holds, that when Christ speaking to his Apostles said, (Joh. xx. 21.) *Receive ye the Holy Ghost; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven, and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained:* he gave them, and their successors, the bishops and priests of the catholick church, authority to absolve any truly penitent sinner from his sins. And God having thus given them the ministry of reconciliation, and made them Christ's legates, (2 Cor. v. 18, 19, 20.) Christ's ministers, and the dispensers of the mysteries of Christ, (1 Cor. iv.) and given them power that *whatsoever they loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven*, (Matt. xviii. 18.) he undoubtedly believes, that whosoever comes to them making a sincere and humble confession of his sins, with a true repentance and a firm purpose of amendment, and a hearty resolution of turning from his evil ways, may from them receive *absolution*, by the authority given them from heaven, and no doubt but God ratifies above the sentence pronounced in that tribunal; *loosing in heaven whatsoever is thus loosed by them on earth*. And that, whosoever comes without the due preparation, without a repentance from the bottom of his heart, and real intention of forsaking his sins, receives no benefit by the *absolution*; but adds sin to

to sin, by a high contempt of God's mercy, and abuse to his Sacraments.

### 8. Of Indulgences.

THE Papist *misrepresented* believes, that his holy father the Pope can give him leave to commit what sins he pleaseth; especially, if he can make him a present of a round sum of money, he never need doubt of an indulgence or pardon for himself and his heirs for ever, for all sorts of crimes or wickedness, he, or any of his posterity may have convenience of falling into. And having this commission in pocket, under the Pope's broad seal, he may be confident that Christ will confirm and stand to all that his Vicar upon earth has granted, and not call him to any account for any thing he has done, although he should chance to die without the least remorse of conscience, or repentance for his sins.

THE Papist *truly represented* believes it damnable to hold, that the Pope, or any other power in heaven or earth, can give him leave to commit any sins whatsoever: or that for any sum of money he can obtain an *indulgence* or *pardon* for sins that are to be committed by him, or his heirs, hereafter. He firmly believes that no sins can be forgiven, without a *true and hearty repentance*: But that still, there is a *power* in the church of granting *indulgences*, by which, as he is taught in his catechism, nothing more is meant than a *releasing*, to such as are *truly penitent*, the debt of temporal punishment, which remained due on account of those sins, which as to the guilt and eternal punishment had been already remitted by *repentance* and *confession*. For, we see in the case of king *David*, 2 *Samuel* xii. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. that the debt of the temporal punishment is not always remitted, when the guilt of the sin is remitted; and as the church of God from the beginning was ever convinced of this truth, therefore, besides the *hearty repentance* and *confession*, which she insisted upon in order for the discharge of the guilt of sin; she also required *severe penances* (sometimes of three, seven, ten years or more) for the discharge of the

the debt of the temporal punishment, due to divine justice. Now the releasing or moderating for just causes these penalties incurred by sin is called an indulgence. And the power of granting such *indulgences* is visibly implied in the promise of *the keys*, and of *binding and loosing* made to the *pastors* of the church, St. *Matt.* xvi. 19. And the exercise of this power was frequent in the primitive church: and is even authorised by the example of St. *Paul* himself, who granted such an indulgence to the incestuous *Corinthian*, 2 *Cor.* ii. 10. *forgiving*, as he says, *in the person of Christ*; that is, by the power and authority he had received from him. Now the good works which are usually required for the obtaining indulgences, are *prayer*, *fasting*, *visiting churches*, *confession*, *communion*, and *almoeide*ds: But what money there is given at any time on this account, concerns not at all the *Pope's* coffers, but is by every one given as they please, either to the poor, to the sick, to prisoners, &c. where they judge it most charity. As to the rest, if any abuses have been committed in *granting* or *gaining indulgences*, through the default of some particular persons; these cannot in justice be charged upon the *church*, to the prejudice of her faith and doctrine; especially, since she has been so careful in the retrenching them; as may be seen by what was done in the council of *Trent*. *Decreto de indulgentiis.*

### 9. Of Satisfaction.

THE Papist *misrepresented* believes very injuriously of Christ's passion, being persuaded, that his sufferings and death were not sufficiently satisfactory for our sins; but that it is necessary for every one to make satisfaction for themselves. And for this end, after he has been at confession, the priest enjoins him a penance; by the performance of which, he is to satisfy for his offences: And thus confidently relying upon his own penitential works, he utterly evacuates Christ's passion; and though he professes himself a Christian, and that Christ is his Saviour; yet by his little trusting to him, he seems to think him to be no better, than what his crucifix informs him, that is, a mere wooden one.

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THE Papist truly represented believes it damnable to think injuriously of Christ's passion. Nevertheless he believes that though *condign satisfaction* for the guilt of sin, and the pain eternal due to it, be proper only to Christ our Saviour: yet that penitent sinners being redeemed by Christ, and made his members, may in some measure *satisfy* by prayer, fasting, alms, &c. for the *temporal pain*, which by order of God's Justice, sometimes remains due after the guilt, and the *eternal pain* are remitted. So that trusting in Christ as his redeemer, he yet does not think that by Christ's sufferings every christian is discharged of his particular sufferings; but that every one is to suffer something for himself, as Saint Paul did, who by many *tribulations*, and by *suffering in his own flesh*, filled up that which was behind of the *passions of Christ*; and this not only for himself, but for the *whole church*, (Coloss. i. 24.) and this he finds every where in *scripture*, viz. People admonished of the greatness of their sins, doing penance in *fasting, sackcloth and ashes*, and by *voluntary austeries*, endeavouring to satisfy the divine justice. And these *personal satisfactions* God has sufficiently also minded him of, in the punishments inflicted on *Moses, Aaron, David, and infinite others*; and even in the afflictions sent by God upon our own age, in *plagues, wars, fires, persecutions, rebellions*; and such like: Which, few are so *atheistical*, but they confess to be sent from heaven for the *just chastisements* of our sins; and which we are to undergo, notwithstanding the *infinite satisfaction* made by Christ, and without any undervaluing it. Now being thus convinced of some *temporal punishments* being due to his sins, he accepts of all *tribulations*, whether in body, name, or estate, from whencesoever they come, and, with others of his own chusing, offers them up to God, for the discharging this debt; still confessing, that his offences deserve yet more. But these penitential works he is taught to be no otherwise *satisfactory*, than as joined and applied to *that satisfaction* which Jesus made upon the cross; in virtue of which *alone*, all our *good works* find a grateful acceptance in God's sight.

10. Of reading the holy Scripture.

THE Papist misrepresented believes it part of his duty, to speak irreverently of the scripture; to do what he is able, to lessen the repute of it, and bring it into disgrace. And for this end, he says it is obscure, full of ambiguous expressions, and not fit to be read by the vulgar; nor fit to be translated into vulgar languages: And without respect to Christ, or his apostles, profanely preaches, that no ten books in the world have done so much mischief to christianity as this one: And under a vain pretence of preventing farther inconveniences, endeavours to deprive all of this spiritual comfort, of this divine food, of this heavenly light; that so being kept in darkness, they may be also preserved in ignorance, and damned eternally.

THE Papist truly represented believes it damnable in any one to think, speak, or do any thing irreverently towards the Scripture; or by any means whatsoever to bring it into disrepute or disgrace. He holds it in the highest veneration of all men living, he professes it to be the pure oracles of God. And that we are rather bound to lose our lives, than concur any way to its profanation. It is true, he does not think it fit to be read generally by all, in the vulgar tongues: Not for any disrespect to it; But, 1. Because he understands, that private interpretation is not proper for the scripture, 2 Pet. i. 20. 2. Because in the epistles of Saint Paul are certain things hard to be understood, which the unlearned and unstable corrupt (as also the rest of the scriptures) to their own perdition, 2 Pet. iii. 16. 3. Because God hath given only some to be apostles, some prophets, other some evangelists, and other some pastors and teachers, Eph. iv. 11. For these reasons he is taught, that it is not convenient for the scripture to be read indifferently by all men, but only by such as are humble, discreet and devout, and such as are willing to observe directions in the perusing this sacred volume: that is, to take notice of all godly histories, and imitable examples of humility, chastity, obedience, mercy

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to the poor, &c. and all such places as are apt to stir up the hatred of sin, fear of God's judgments, love of virtue, &c. and in all *hard, obscure* and *disputable* points to refer all to the arbitrement of the church, to the judgment of those whom God hath appointed *pastors and teachers*: never presuming to contend, controul, teach, or talk of their *own sense* and *fancy* in deep questions of divinity, and *high mysteries* of faith; but expecting the *sense* of these from the *lips of the priest, who shall keep knowledge, and from whose mouth they shall require the law*, Mal. ii. 7. And this caution is used, lest the scripture coming into the hands of a presuming sort of proud, curious, and contentious people, be abused and perverted; who make it their business to enquire into high and hidden secrets of God's counsels, and upon the presumption of *I know not what spirit*, immediately become *teachers, comptrollers and judges of doctors, church, scripture, and all*; and acknowledging no authority left by Christ, to which they are to submit; under pretence of scripture and God's word, make way for all sorts of *profaneness, irreligion and atheism*. So that it is not for the preserving *ignorance*, he allows a restraint upon the reading the scriptures, but for the preventing a *blind ignorant presumption*. And that it may be done to *edification* and not to destruction, and without casting the *holy to dogs, or pearls to swine*.

### 11. Of the Scripture as a rule of faith.

THE Papist misrepresented believes it his obligation to undervalue the scripture, and take from it that authority, which Christ gave it. For whereas Christ left this to the world, as the rule of faith, and as a sacred oracle, from whence all his followers might be instructed in the precepts of a good life, learn all the mysteries of their faith, and be resolved in all difficult and doubtful points of religion; he is taught flatly to deny all this; and to believe that the scripture is not capable of deciding any one point of controversy, or reconciling the different sentiments of men.

versum 22. capitulo 2. videlicet quod illud non potest in  
opinione.

*in religion: And thus he demeans himself towards the word of God, in a manner most unbecoming a Christian.*

THE Papist truly represented believes it damnable to undervalue the *scripture*, or to take from it the *authority* given it by Christ. He gives it all respect due to the *word of God*; he owns it to be of greatest *authority* upon earth, and that it is capable of leading a man to all *truth*, when it is rightly understood. But to any one that *misunderstands* it, and takes it in any other sense, than what was intended by the *Holy Ghost*; he believes it to such a one, to be *no scripture*, *no word of God*: that to such a one, it is *no rule of faith*; nor *judge of controversies*; and that what he thinks to be the *doctrine* of Christ, and *command* of heaven, is nothing but his own *imagination* and the *suggestion* of the devil. And since by the experience of so many hundred *heresies* since our Saviour's time, all pretending to be grounded on *scripture*, he finds that almost every *text* of the *bible*, and even those that concern the most *essential* and *fundamental* points of the *christian religion*, have been interpreted several ways; and made to signify things *contrary* to one another; and that while thus *contrary* meanings are by several persons drawn from the *same words*; the *scripture* is still *silent*, without discovering *which* of all those *senses* is *that* intended by the *Holy Ghost*, and agreeable to *truth*, and which are erroneous and *antichristian*: He concludes that the *scripture alone*, without taking along with it *the interpretation of the church*, cannot be to every private person the *whole rule of his faith*. Not that there is any *authority* wanting on the *scripture side*; but because no *private person* can be certain, whether amongst all the *several meanings* every *text* is liable to, that which he understands it in, is the *right, or no*. And without this *certainty of truth*, and *security from error*, he knows there is nothing capable of being a *sufficient rule of his faith*.

12. *Of the interpretation of Scripture.*

THE Papist misrepresented believes that his church, which he calls catholick, is above the scripture ; and profanely allows to her an uncontroulable authority of being Judge of the word of God ; and being fondly abused into a distrust of the scriptures, and that he can be certain of nothing, not even of the fundamentals of christianity, from what is delivered in them, though they speak never so plainly ; he is taught to rely wholly upon this church, and not to believe one word the scripture says, unless his church says it too.

THE Papist truly represented believes, that the church is not above the scripture ; but only allows that order between them, as is between the judge and the law ; and is no other than what generally every private member of the reformation challenges to himself, as often as he pretends to decide any doubt of his own, or his neighbour in religion, by interpreting the scripture. Neither is he taught at all to distrust the scripture, or not to rely on it ; but only to distrust his own private interpretation of it, and not to rely on his own judgment, in the resolution of any doubt concerning faith or religion, though he can produce several texts in favour of his opinion. But in all such cases he is commanded to recur to the church ; and having learnt from her the true sense of all such texts ; how they have been understood by the whole community of christians, in all ages since the apostles ; and what has been their received doctrine, in such doubtful and difficult points ; he is obliged to submit to this, and never presume on his own private sentiments, however seemingly grounded on reason and scripture, to believe or preach any new doctrine opposite to the belief of the church ; but as he receives from her the book, so also to receive from her the sense of the book : with a holy confidence, that she that did not cheat him in delivering a false book for the true one, will not cheat him in delivering a false and erroneous sense for the true one ; her authority, which is sufficient in the one, being not less in the other : and his own private judgment,

judgment, which was insufficient in the one, that is, in finding out the *true scripture*, and discerning it from all other books; being as incapable and insufficient in the other; that is, in certainly discovering the meaning of the Holy Ghost, and avoiding all other *heterodox* and *mistaken interpretations*.

### 13. Of Tradition.

THE Papist *misrepresented* believes the scripture to be imperfect: and for the supplying of what he thinks defective in it, he admits human ordinations and traditions of men; allowing equal authority to these, as to the scriptures themselves; thinking himself as much obliged to submit to these, and believe them with divine faith, as he does whatsoever is written in the bible, and confessedly spoken by the author of all truth, God himself. Neither will he admit of any one to be a member of his communion, although he undoubtedly believes every word that is written in the scripture; unless he also assents to the traditions, and gives as great credit to them, as to the word of God, although in that there is not the least footstep of them to be found.

THE Papist *truly represented* believes the scripture not to be imperfect, nor to want human ordinations, or traditions of men, for the supplying any defects in it: Neither does he allow the *same* authority to these, as to the *word of God*; or give them equal credit; or exact it of others, that desire to be admitted into the communion of his church. He believes no *divine faith* ought to be given to any thing, but what is of *divine revelation*; and that nothing is to have place in his *creed*, but what was taught by Christ, and his apostles, and has been believed and taught in all ages by the *church of God*, the congregation of all true believers, and has been so delivered down to him through all ages. But now, whether that which has been so delivered down to him, as the *doctrine of Christ and his apostles*, has been by *word of mouth* or *writing*, is altogether indifferent to him; he being ready to follow, in this point, as in all others, the command of

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St. Paul, that is, to stand fast, and hold the traditions he has learned, whether by word or by epistle, 2 Thess. ii. 15. and to look upon any one as anathema, that shall preach otherwise than he has (thus) received, Gal. i. 9. So that as he undoubtedly holds the whole bible to be the word of God, because in all ages, it has been so taught, preached, believed and delivered successively by the faithful; although they are not, nor have not at any time been able to prove what they have thus taught, and delivered, with one text of scripture. In the like manner, he is ready to receive and believe all this same congregation has, together with the bible, in all ages successively, without interruption, taught, preached, believed, and delivered as the doctrine of Christ and his apostles; and assent to it with divine faith; just as he does to the bible; and esteems any one anathema, that shall preach otherwise than he has thus received.

### 14. Of Councils.

THE Papist misrepresented believes that the faith of his church may receive new additions every day; and that he is not only obliged to believe what Christ and his apostles taught, but also every definition or decree, of any general council assembled by the Pope. So that as often as any thing is issued out by the authority of any of these church-parliaments, and ordered to be believed; he thinks himself, under pain of damnation, immediately bound to receive it; and having added it to his creed, to assent to it with as firm, steadfast and divine a faith, as if it had been commanded by Christ himself, and decreed in the consistory of heaven.

THE Papist truly represented believes that the faith of his church can receive no additions; and that he is obliged to believe nothing, besides that which Christ and his apostles taught, and if any thing contrary to this should be defined and commanded to be believed, even by ten thousand councils, he believes it damnable in any one to receive it, and by such decrees, to make additions

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to his *creed*. However, he maintains the authority of *general councils* lawfully assembled; whose business it is, not to coin *new articles of faith*, or devise *fresh tenets*; but only, as often as any *point* of received doctrine is impugned or called in question to debate the matter; and examine what has been the belief of all nations (who are there present in their *prelates*) in that point; and this being agreed on, to publish and make known to the world, which is the *catholick doctrine*, left by Christ and his *apostles*; and which the *new broached error*. And by this means to prevent the loss of an infinite number of souls, which might otherwise be deluded, and carried away after new inventions. And in this case he believes that he is obliged to submit, and receive the decrees of such a *council*; the *pastors* and *prelates* there present being by Christ and his *apostles* appointed for the decision of such controversies. They having the *care* of that *flock* committed to them, *over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers to feed the church of God*. *Acts xx. 28.* and to *watch* against those men, who should arise from among *themselves*, *speaking perverse things to draw disciples after them*. *Ib. vers. 33.* And he having received command, as likewise the *whole flock* of Christ has, to *obey* their *prelates* and to be *subject to them*, who *watch*, and are to *render an account for their souls*, *Heb. xiii. 17.* with an *assurance*, *That, he that beareth them, beareth Christ; and he that despiseth them, despiseth Christ*, *Luke x. 16.*

### 15. Of Infallibility in the Church.

THE Papist *misrepresented* believes that the *pastors* and *prelates* of his *church* are *infallible*, and that like so many *divine oracles*, or *petty deities*, they are *exempt from error*, and cannot *deceive* or be *deceived*: But this especially when they are met together in a *general council*. It being a main part of his *faith*, that then they are *secure from all mistakes*; and that it is as *impossible* for them, how *ignorant*, or *wicked* soever, to decline either to the *right hand* or to the *left*, in any of their *definitions* and *decrees*, as it is for God to become the *author of lies*.

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THE Papist truly represented believes that the pastors and prelates of his church are *fallible*; that there is none of them, but may fall into errors, and heresies, and consequently liable to be deceived. But that the whole church can fail, or be deceived in any one point of faith, this he believes impossible; knowing it to be built on *better promises*; such as secure her from all *error*, and danger of *prevarication*. Her foundation being laid by Christ, *against which the gates of hell shall not prevail*, (Matt. xvi. 18.) The power that protects her, being Christ himself; *Behold I am with you all days*, (Matt. xxviii. 20.) The Spirit that guides and teaches her, being the *Comforter*, the *Holy Ghost*, *who shall teach her all things, and suggest to her all things that Christ has said to her*, (Joh. xiv. 26.) The time that she is to be thus protected, taught, and assisted, being not only while the *apostles* lived, or for the first three, four, or five hundred years next after; but *for ever*, to the end of the world: *Behold I am with you all days even unto the end of the world*, (Matt. xxviii. 20.) *He will give you another Paraclete, that he may abide with you for ever*, (Joh. xiv. 16, 17.) *the Spirit of truth*. And the thing, that she is to be thus taught to the end of the world, being *all truth*: *He shall guide you into all truth*, (Joh. xvi. 13.) Now being assured by these *promises*, that the church of Christ shall be taught all truth by the special assistance of the *Holy Ghost*, to the end of the world; he has faith to believe, that Christ will make his *words* good; and that his church shall never fail, nor be corrupted with *antichristian doctrine*, nor be the mistrels of *errors*; but shall be taught all truth, and shall teach all truth to the consummation of the world: and that *whoever hears her, hears Christ: and whoever despiseth her, despises Christ: and ought to be esteemed as a heathen or a publican*, (Matt. xviii. 17.) The like assistance of the *Holy Ghost*, he believes to be in all *general councils*, which is the church-representative: (as the *parliament* is the *representative* of the nation) by which they are especially protected from all *error*, in all definitions and declarations in matters of *faith*. So that what the *apostles* pronounced concerning the result of their *council*,

cil, (Acts xv. 28.) It hath seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us; he does not doubt, may be prefixed to all the determinations in point of faith, resolved on by any general council lawfully assembled since that time, or to be held to the world's end. The assistance being to extend as far as the promise. And though it is possible that several of the prelates and pastors in such an assembly, (as also many others in communion with the church of Christ) should at other times, either through pride or ignorance, prevaricate, make innovations in faith, teach erroneous doctrines, and endeavour to draw numbers after them; yet he is taught, that this does not at all argue a fallibility in the church; nor prejudice her faith, but only the persons, that thus unhappily fall into these errors, and cut themselves off from being members of the mystical body of Christ upon earth: Whilst the belief of the church remains pure and untainted; and experiences the truth of what St. Paul foretold, that grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock: Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them, (Acts xx. v. 29, 30.) which, as it proved true even in the apostles time by the fall of Nicholas and several others, so it has been verified in all ages since, by turbulent and presuming spirits, broaching new doctrines, and making separations and schisms: But this without casting any more aspersion on the church or congregation of the faithful, than the fall of Judas did on the apostles, or the rebellion of Lucifer on the hierarchy of angels. Neither does it reflect at all on the church's authority, or make the truth of her doctrine questionable to him; that many of her eminent members and prelates have been, or are enormous sinners: Because he is convinced that the promise of God's continual and un-interrupted assistance to his church are not to be made void by the wickedness of particular men, in how great dignities soever.

#### 16. Of the Pope.

THE Papist misrepresented believes the Pope to be his great God, and to be far above all the angels. That Christ is no longer head of the church, but that this holy father

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father hath taken his place ; and that whatsoever he orders, decrees or commands, is to be received by his flock, with the same respect, submission and awe, as if Christ had spoken it by his own mouth. For that his holiness (having once received the triple-crown on his head,) is now no longer liable to error, but is infallible and can do nothing amiss.

THE Papist truly represented believes the Pope to be none of his God, neither great nor little ; that he is not above the angels, but only a man. He believes that Christ, as he is supreme master, governor and lord of all created things, so also of his church, of which he acknowledges him to be the founder and head. But as, notwithstanding this lordship and headship of Christ over all things, every father of a family owns himself to be master of it under Christ ; and every king is confessed supreme lord and governor of his dominions under God : so also, he believes, that there is a pastor, governor and head of Christ's church under Christ, to wit, the Pope, or Bishop of Rome, who is the successor of St. Peter, to whom Christ committed the care of his flock ; and who hath been followed now by a visible succession of about 250 Bishops acknowledged as such in all ages, by the christian world. And now believing the Pope to enjoy this dignity, he looks upon himself obliged to shew him that respect, submission and obedience, which is due to his place, a thing no body can in reason or conscience deny to any one in rule, or that has any superiority. Neither does he make any doubt, but God assists those who have this high charge with a particular helping grace with respect to their office and function, for the benefit of the whole flock : though he is not obliged to believe them infallible, (this being a point never defined by the church) much less impeccable.

17. *Of Dispensations.*

THE Papist misrepresented believes, that the Pope has authority to dispense with the laws of God ; and absolve any one from the obligation of keeping the commandments.

ments. So that, if he has but his holy father's leave, he may confidently dissemble, lie, and forswear himself in all whatsoever he pleases, and never be in danger of being called to an account at the last day ; especially if his lying and forswearing was for the common good of the church : there being then a sure reward prepared for him in heaven, as a recompence for his good intentions and heroick achievements. And if at any time he should chance to be catched in the management of any of these publick church-concerns, and being obnoxious to penal laws, should have sentence of death passed on him ; he has liberty at his last hour, on the scaffold or ladder, to make a publick detestation of all such crimes ; to make protestations of his innocence ; to call God to witness, that he dies unjustly ; and that as he is immediately to appear before the supreme judge, he knows no more of any such designs, and is as clear from the guilt of them as the child unborn. And this though the evidence against him be as clear as noon-day, though the jury be never so impartial, and the judge never so conscientious. For that he having taken the sacrament and oath of secrecy, and received absolution, or a dispensation from the Pope, may then lie, swear, forswear, and protest, all that he pleases without scruple, with a good conscience, christian-like, holy and canonically.

THE Papist truly represented believes ; that the Pope has no authority to dispense with the laws of God ; and that there is no power upon earth can absolve any one from the obligation of keeping the commandments ; or give leave to lie or forswear ; or make, that the breaking of any the least divine precept, shall not be accountable for at the day of judgment. He is taught by his church in all books of direction, in all catechisms, in all sermons, that every lie is a sin ; that to call God to witness to an untruth is damnable ; that it ought not to be done to save the whole world ; that whosoever does it, either for his own personal account, or for the interest of church or pope, or whatsoever else, must of necessity answer for it at the last day, and expect his portion with the devil and his angels, if unrepented of : and that no one can give leave

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for lying, perjury, or committing any sin; or even pretend to it, unless it be the devil himself, or some devilish ministers of his, such as he detests in his heart, and utterly abominates. And in consequence to this he believes, that whosoever at the hour of his death denies any crime, of which he is guilty, and swears himself to be innocent, when he is not so; can have no hope of mercy: but departing out of this world an enemy to God, and the truth, and with a lie in his mouth, can expect no reward, but from the father of lies. And this, whatsoever his crime was, whether incurred by an undertaking for mother-church, or no; and whatsoever his pretences for the denial of the truth were, whether absolutions, dispensations, the sacrament or oath of secrecy, or whatsoever else: nothing of these being capable of excusing him in lies or perjury, or making them to be innocent, and not displeasing to God. Nor indeed did he ever hear of these so much talked on dispensations and absolutions, from any priests of his church, either in sermons or confessions; he never read of them in his books and catechisms; he never saw the practice of them in any of his communions; it having been their custom, ever since oaths were first devised against them, rather to suffer the loss of their goods, banishments, imprisonments, torments, and death itself, than forswear themselves, or protest the least untruth. And it is not out of the memory of man, that several might have saved their estates, and lives too, would they have subscribed, and owned but one lie; and yet refused it; chusing rather to die infamously, than prejudice their conscience with an untruth. So that it seems a great mystery to him, that those of his profession should have leave and dispensations to lie and forswear themselves at pleasure, and yet that they should need nothing else but lying and perjury for the quiet enjoyment of their estates, for the saving their lives, for the obtaining places of highest command, and dignity; such as would be extraordinarily advantageous for their cause, and the interest of their church. And yet that they should generally chuse rather to forego all these so considerable conveniences, than once lie or forswear themselves. And is it not another great

great mystery, that these dispensations for lying and swearing should be according to the received doctrine of his church; and yet that he, or any of his communion, were never instructed nor informed of any such diabolical point? nay, had never come to the knowledge of it, had it not been for the information received from some zealous adversaries, such as relate either merely upon trust, or else such as have received a dispensation of lying from the devil, that they might charge the like doctrine on the church of *Rome* and the *pope*.

### 18. Of the deposing Power.

THE Papist misrepresented believes, that the Pope has authority to dispense with his allegiance to his prince; and that he needs no longer be a loyal subject, and maintain the rights, privileges and authority of his king, than the pope will give him leave. And that if this mighty father should think fit to thunder out an excommunication against him, then he shall be deemed the best subject, and most christian, that shall take up arms against him, and make him a sacrifice to Rome: so that there can be no greater danger to a king, than to have popish subjects; holding his life amongst them only at the pope's pleasure.

IT is no part of the faith of the Papist truly represented to believe, that the Pope has authority to dispense with his allegiance to his sovereign, or that he can depose princes upon any account whatsoever; or give leave to their subjects to take up arms against them, and endeavour their ruin. He knows that the deposing power has been maintained by some divines of his church, and that it is in their opinion annexed to the papal chair. He knows likewise that some popes have endeavoured to act according to this power, but he also knows that this doctrine is so far from being looked upon as an article of the catholic faith, that it is as earnestly opposed by the French papists, as it is by English protestants. And as for any danger arising to kings from having popish subjects, it is very well known that princes in popish coun-

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tries sit as safe on their thrones, and enjoy as much peace and security, as any other princes whatsoever ; and that the *papists* here in *England* can give as good proofs of their loyalty, and that to protestant kings, as the best of those that clamour so loud against them.

19. *Of Communion in one kind.*

**T**HE Papist misrepresented believes, that he is no longer obliged to obey Christ's commands, than his church will give him leave ; and that therefore, though Christ instituted the sacrament under both kinds, and commanded it to be received so by all ; yet he thinks it not necessary, for any to do so now, but priests ; because his church, forsooth, hath forbidden the cup to the laity ; and put a stop to the precept of Christ, Drink ye all of this, (Mat. xxvi.)

**T**HE Papist truly represented believes, that he is obliged to obey all the commands of Christ : and that neither his church, nor any other power upon earth can limit, alter, or annul any precept of divine institution, contrary to the intention of the law-giver. Neither is the denial of the cup to the laity, a practice any ways opposite to this his belief : he being taught, that though Christ instituted the blessed sacrament under both kinds, and so delivered it to his apostles, who only were then present, and whom he then made Priests ; yet he gave no command, that it should be received by all the faithful : but left this indifferent, as is evident from his own words, where he attributes the obtaining life everlasting (which is the end of the institution) no less to the receiving in one kind, than to the receiving under both kinds ; as when he says, *If any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever. He that eats me, even he shall live by me. He that eats of this bread shall live for ever,* (John vi. 51, 57, 58.) And a curious reader may find as many texts for thus receiving under one kind, as for the other. And St. Augustine was of opinion, that Christ himself administered the sacrament to some of his disciples under one kind only,

only, *viz.* to those two going to Emmaus (*Luke xxiv. 20.*) And that the apostles afterwards did often practise the like, when they assembled, to break bread, (*Act ii. &c.*) which place, he and other *fathers* explain of the *sacrament*, (*Aug. l. de Cons. Evang. c. 49.*) And that it was the custom of the *primitive christians*, to give it under *one* kind, to *children*, to the *sick*, and to the faithful in time of persecution; and that men on a *journey* used to carry it with them, is attested both by antient writers, and modern historians. Nay, he finds, that it was the practice of the *church*, to communicate under *one* kind only, or else under *both*, as every one thought good, for the first four hundred years after Christ: and that the first precept of *receiving under both kinds*, was given to the faithful by *Pope Leo I.* in the year 443, and confirmed by *Pope Gelasius* in 490, not for the correcting any *abuse*, that had crept into the *church*, but for the discovering the *Manichees*, who (being of opinion, that Christ had no true blood, and that *wine* was the *gall* of the Devil) used to lurk among the *christians*, and receiving under the form of *bread only*, as the rest did, remained undistinguished, till by this obligation of all receiving the *cup*, (which they judged unlawful and abominable) they were detected. And now, if a thing (till that time *indifferent*,) was for these motives determined by an *Ecclesiastical precept*, and so observed for some hundred years, without scruple or questioning the *authority*; why should he doubt to submit to the same *authority*, when (upon different motives and circumstances,) they issue forth another *precept*? Few doubt of this, in the matter of *eating strangled meat, and blood*; which, though forbid by the apostles, (*Act xv.*) and so at that time unlawful, is now, and upon other circumstances, become a thing *indifferent*, and like other things. And why then should he scruple in this, especially since there is no *injury* done, nor he defrauded of any thing? For believing the *real presence* of Christ in the *sacrament*, he consequently believes *whole* and living Jesus to be *intirely* contained under *either species*: And that (receiving *one kind*) he is truly partaker of

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the whole sacrament, and not deprived of either the Body or Blood of Christ.

20. *Of the Mass.*

THE Papist misrepresented believes an insufficiency in the sacrifice made by Christ upon the Cross: And that his death will little avail us in order to our redemption, unless we, by daily sacrificing him to his Father, perfect what he began. And therefore, little taking notice of St. Paul's words to the Hebrews, (Chap. x. 14.) where he says, that Christ our High-Priest by one oblation hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified; he thinks he shall never be sanctified, but by the offering made by his Mass-Priests upon their Altars, when they say Mass.

THE Papist truly represented believes that the sacrifice made by Christ upon the Cross was altogether sufficient: That by it he saved and redeemed us, paying the debt of sin, and satisfying the infinite justice of his Father. That by it he procured for us all means for our salvation; all graces in order for faith and good works, all the sacraments, and which of all things is most honourable to God, the offering of a sacrifice. But as Christ's worshipping of God, Christ's fasting, Christ's praying and suffering for us, does not hinder or evacuate our worshipping of God, our fasting, our suffering, our praying for ourselves; so neither did his sacrifice hinder or evacuate all sacrifices for ever. And as he instituted fasting, praying, and suffering for his followers, that by so doing, they might apply what he did to themselves; so also he instituted a sacrifice; that by it they might apply the merits of his sacrifice, and make it beneficial to their souls. So that though he firmly believes, that Christ offered sacrifice for our redemption, and by one only offering, (spoken of by St. Paul) perfected by way of redemption the sanctification of all those that are sanctified: Yet he also believes, that to receive the benefit of this offering, we must also do our parts, by our good works concurring with Christ, and in some manner purifying our own selves, 1 Joh. iii. 3. and therefore

therefore not omit the best of all works, which is sacrifice: Which our Saviour *Iesus Christ* instituted at his last supper, when leaving unto us his *Body and Blood* under two distinct species of *Bread and Wine*, he bequeathed as a legacy to his apostles, not only a *sacrament*, but also a *sacrifice*: A *commemorative sacrifice*, lively representing in an *unbloody manner*, the *bloody sacrifice*, which was offered for us upon the *Cross*; and by a distinction of the symbols, distinctly *showing forth his (Christ's) death until he come*. This he gave in charge to his *apostles*, as to the first and chief *priests* of the *New Testament*, and to their successors to offer; commanding them to do the same thing he had there done at his *last supper*, in *commemoration* of him. And this is the *oblation*, or *sacrifice* of the *Mass*, which has been observed, performed, frequented by the faithful in all ages, attested by the general consent of all antiquity, *universal tradition*, and the practice of the whole *church*; mentioned and allowed of by all the *fathers grec and latin*; and never called into question but of late years; being that *pure offering* which the prophet *Malachy* foretold should be offered among the *gentiles in every place*, *Mal. i. 11.* as this text was ever understood by the ancient *fathers*.

## 21. Of Purgatory.

THE Papist misrepresented believes, contrary to all reason, to the word of God, and to all antiquity, that, besides heaven and hell, there is a third place which his church is pleased to call *Purgatory*; a place intended purely for those of his communion, where they may easily have admittance after this life, without danger of falling into Hell; for, that though Hell was designed first, for the punishment of sinners; yet (that now, since the blessed discovery of *Purgatory*) Hell may easily be skipped over; and an eternal damnation avoided, for an exchange of some short penalty undergone in this Pope's prison.

THE Papist truly represented believes it damnable to admit of any thing for faith, that is contrary to reason, the word of God, and all antiquity: But that the being of a *third place* (called *purgatory*) is so far from being contrary to all, or any of these, that it is attested, confirmed, and established by them all. It is expressly taught in the second of the *Machabees*, c. xii. where money was sent to *Jerusalem*, for sacrifices to be offered for the slain, and it is recommended as *holy and wholesome to pray for the dead* that they may be loosed from their sins. Now these two books of *Machabees* were certainly held in great veneration by all antiquity: and as St. *Augustine* informs us (L. xviii. *de civ. Dei*) were then accounted canonical by the church. The being also of a *third place* is plainly intimated by our *Saviour*. (Matth. xii. 32.) where he says, *whosoever speaks against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.* By which words *Christ* evidently supposes, that (though these shall not) yet some sins are forgiven in the *world to come*: Which since it cannot be in *Heaven*, where no *sin* can enter; nor in *Hell*, where there is no remission; it must necessarily be in some *middle-state*: And in this sense it was understood by St. *Augustine* above thirteen hundred years ago. (*Civ. Dei. l. 21. c. 13, & 24. & lib. 6. cont. Julian. c. 15.*) so also by St. *Gregory the Great*, (L. 4. *Dial. c. 39.*) In the same manner does St. *Augustine* understand those words of St. *Paul*, (1 *Cor. iii. 15.*) *He himself shall be saved: yet so as by fire.* Where he thinks him to speak of a *purgating fire*, (Aug. in *Psal. 37.*) So the same *father* understands that *prison* of which St. *Peter* speaks, (1 *Pet. iii. 19*) to be some place of *temporal chastisement*, (Aug. *Ep. 99*) And if this great *Doctor* of the church in those purer times, found so often in the *bible*, *a place of pains, after this life, from whence there was release*; how can any one say, without presumption, that the being of a *third place*, is contrary to the *word of God*? Neither can the antiquity of this doctrine be more justly called in question, of which is found so early mention not only by this holy *father*;

father; but by divers others his predecessors, who came not long after the apostles, and were the best *witnesses* of their doctrine, (See *Acta SS. Perpet. & Felicit.* mentioned and approved by S. *Augustine l. 1. de Anima & ejus Orig.* c. 10. l. 3. c. 9. & l. 4. c. 18. *Tertullian l. de Cor. Mil.* c. 3. & l. *de monogamia.* S. *Cyprian, Ep. 65, ad Cler. Arnobius l. 4. contra Gen. &c. &c. &c.*) And as for the *reasonableness* of this *tenet*: his *reason* convinces him, 1. That every sin, how slight soever, though no more than an *idle word*, as it is an *offence* of God, deserves punishment from him, and will be punished by him hereafter if not cancelled by *repentance* here. 2. That such small sins do not deserve *eternal punishment*. 3. That few depart this life so pure as to be totally exempt from spots of this nature, and from every kind of debt to God's justice. 4. Therefore that few will escape without suffering something from his justice for such debts which they have carried with them out of this world; according to that rule of divine justice by which he treats every soul hereafter according to their works, and according to the state in which he finds them in death. Thus his *reason* convinces him that there must be some *third place*, for, since the *infinite goodness* of God can admit nothing into heaven, which is not *clean*, and pure from all sin both *great and small*. And his *infinite justice* can permit none to receive the *reward of bliss*, who as yet are not out of *debt*, but have something in *justice to suffer*: There must of necessity be some *place or state*, where souls, departing this life, pardoned as to the *eternal guilt or pain*, yet obnoxious to some *temporal penalty*, or with the guilt of some *venial faults*, are *purg'd and purified* before their admittance into *heaven*. And this is what he is taught concerning *purgatory*. Which, though he knows not; *where it is, of what nature the pains are, or how long each soul is detained there*; yet he believes, that those, that are in this place, being the *living members* of Jesus Christ, are relieved by the *prayers* of their fellow-members here on earth, as also by *alms* and *masses* offered up to God for their souls. And as for such as have no relations or friends to pray for them, or give alms, or procure masses

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for their relief ; they are not neglected by the church, which makes a general commemoration of all the faithful departed in every mass, and in every one of the canonical hours of the divine office.

22. *Of praying in an unknown tangue.*

THE Papist misrepresented is counselled by his church, to be present at sermons, but never permitted to hear any, he is able to understand : they being all delivered in an unknown tongue. He is taught to pray, but it must be in latin. He is commanded to assist at the church service, and to hear mass, but it must be without understanding a word ; it being all performed in a language, of which he is altogether ignorant. And thus he is miserably deprived of all the comfortable benefits of christianity : hearing, but without understanding ; praying, but without reaping fruit ; assisting at publick assemblies, but like a stock or stone, without feeling, or any the least sense of devotion.

THE Papist truly represented is counselled by his church to be present at sermons, such as he is able to understand, they being always delivered in the vulgar language of every country : In France, French : in Spain, Spanish : in Italy, Italian : in England (if permitted) English. They being purely intended for the good instruction of the congregation present. He is taught to pray, and always provided with such books of devotion as he is capable of understanding ; every nation being well furnished with such helps extant in the language proper to the country. He is commanded to assist at the church service, and to hear Mass ; and in this he is instructed, not so much to understand the words, as to know what is done. For the Mass being a sacrifice, wherein is daily commemorated the death and passion of Christ, by an oblation, made by the priest, of the body and blood of the immaculate lamb under the symbols of bread and wine, according to his own institution ; it is not so much the business of the congregation present, to employ their ears in attending to the words, as their hearts in contemplation of the divine mysteries,

mysteries, by raising up fervent affections of love, thanksgiving, sorrow for sins, resolutions of amendment, &c. That thus having their heart and intention united with the priest's, they may be partakers of his *prayers*, and the *sacrifice* he is then offering; than which he believes nothing is more acceptable to God, or beneficial to true believers. And for the raising of these affections in his soul, and filling his heart with love and devotion, he thinks, in this case, there is little need of words; a true *faith*, without these, is all-sufficient. Who could but have burst forth into tears of love and thanksgiving, if he had been present while our Saviour was tied to the *pillar*, *scourged* and *tormented*, though he opened not his mouth to the by-standers, nor spoke a word? Who would have needed a *sermon* to have been filled with *grief* and *compassion*, if he had seen his Saviour exposed to the *scorn* of the *Jews*, when he was made a bloody spectacle by *Pilate*, with, *Ecce homo, Lo the man!* Who could have stood cold and senseless, upon mount *Calvary* under the *cross*, when his *Redeemer* was hanging on it, though he had not heard, or understood a word that he spoke? Does any one think that those *holy women*, who followed their *Lord*, in these sad passages, and were witnesses of his sufferings, wanted *holy affections* in their souls, because he spoke not; or were they scandalized at his *silence*? Was not their *faith* in him that suffered, by which they believed him to be *Christ Jesus*, true God and Man, laying down his life for the *redemption* of Man, sufficient to excite in their souls all the passions due from a sinful creature; to his bleeding *Redeemer*, to his crucified *Jesus*? The like *faith* also is sufficient to fill him with *devotion*, when he is present at the *holy sacrifice* of the *Mass*; for, believing that *Christ* is there *really present* before him, under the species of *bread and wine*, and that he that lies upon the *altar*, is the *lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world*; what need of more, to quicken in his soul all the *affections of a devout lover*? Can he behold his *Redeemer* before him, and not break forth into *love* and *thanksgiving*? Can he see him, that gives *light* to the *blind*, *health* to the *sick*, and *life* to the *dead*, and yet stand

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stand still senseless and unmoved, without putting up any petition to him, without asking any thing for his *blind, sick and sinful soul*? Can he believe that he that gives his life for the world, and died for our sins, is there before him, and not be touched with *sorrow* and *contrition* for his *offences*? Can he see commemorated every *doleful passage* of his Saviour's *sufferings*, in the several *mysteries* of the *Mass*, and yet not be filled with *grief* and *compassion*? Is not *Jesus* welcome to a devout soul, although he come in *silence*? Is not the *presence* of Christ, a more forcing motive to a *christian*, than any *human words* could be? And if he must needs have *words*, let him behold with the eye of *faith* the *gaping wounds* of his *Redeemer*, and see if those *speak* nothing to his *soul*? if they do not, it is because he wants *faith*. It nothing therefore concerns his *devotion*, that the *Mass* is said in *latin*: if the *church* has ordered it thus, so to preserve *unity*, as in *faith*, so in the *external worship* of God; and to prevent *alterations* and *changes*, which it would be exposed to, if in *wulgar languages*; and for other good reasons; what is that to him? he should receive but little advantage, if it were in his *mother tongue*. For, besides that the greatest part is said in so *low a voice*, that it is not possible he should hear it; the *words* do not belong to him, but only to the priest's *office*; his *obligation* is, to accompany the priest in *prayer*, and *spirit*, to be a *joint-offerer* with him, to contemplate the *mysteries* there represented, and to excite in his *soul* devotions according to the *exigency* of every *passage*; according to the *directions* he finds in his *english* *prayer-books*, of which there are extant great variety, set forth for the help of the *ignorant*; by which they are taught the *meaning* of every part and *ceremony* of the *Mass*, and how to apply their *devotions* accordingly. And if at any time he be present at other *publick devotions*, which are performed in *latin*; or should say any *private prayers*, or sing a *hymn* in the same *language*, which he understands not; yet is he taught that this might be done, with great *benefit* to his *soul* and the acceptance of God, if at these occasions he does but endeavour to raise his thoughts to *heaven*, and

fix his heart upon his Maker. For that God does not respect the *language* of the *lips*, but of the *heart*; does not attend the motion of the *tongue*, but of the *mind*; and if these be but directed to him in *thanksgiving*, in *praising*, or *petitioning*, in *humiliation*, in *contrition*, and such like acts, as circumstances require, he need not doubt but that God accepts his *prayers* and *devotions*. It being an undeniable thing, that, to say *prayers well* and *devoutly*, it is not necessary to have attention on the *words*, or on the *sense* of the *prayers*; but rather purely on *God*. Of these three *attentions*, this *last* being approved by all, as of greatest perfection, and most pleasing to *God*. And this he can have, whether he understands the *words* or no. It being very usual and easy for a *petitioner* to accompany his *petition* with an earnest desire of obtaining his *suit*, though the *language* in which it is worded, be *unknown* to him.

### 23. Of the Second Commandment.

**T**HE Papist *misrepresented* is kept in ignorance, as to an essential part of his duty towards *God*; never being permitted to know the commandments, but by halves. For in the books delivered to him for his instruction, (such as catechisms and manuals,) the second commandment is wholly left out; and he by this means is taught to fall into all sorts of superstitious worship, and down-right idolatry.

**T**HE Papist *truly represented* is instructed in his *whole* duty towards *God*, and most especially in the *ten commandments*. He is taught to understand them all and every one: that there is an obligation of observing them, under pain of eternal damnation; and that whosoever breaks any one of them, loses the favour of *God*, and as certainly hazards the loss of his soul, as if he broke them all. And though in some short *catechisms* in which the whole *christian doctrine* is delivered in the most compendious and easy method, in condescendence to weak memories, and low capacities, the *second commandment* (as it is reckoned by some) be omitted: yet it is to be seen at length

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length in other catechisms, manuals, and doctrinal books, to be met with every where in great plenty. And if any one should chance not to see any of these, yet would he be out of all danger of falling into any *superstitious worship* or *idolatry*: for that having read his *first commandment*, *Thou shalt have no other Gods before me*; he is taught by this, that he is commanded to serve, love, adore and worship one *only true, living and eternal God*, and no more: that it is forbidden him, to worship any *creature* for a *God*, or to give it the honour due to *God*; and that whosoever worships any *idols, images, pictures, or any graven thing* (whatsoever the object be, whether in heaven above, in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth) for *God*, breaks the *commandment*, by committing *idolatry*, and stands guilty of an inexcusable and most damnable sin. Now having been taught, that this is the intent of the *first precept* of the *decalogue*, he thinks there can be but little danger of his becoming *superstitious* in his worship, or an *idolater*, for want of the *second*; there being nothing in this, but what he is fully and expressly instructed in, by having learned the *first*; it being rather an *explication* of this than any *new and distinct precept*: and for this reason he finds them in his books, put together as *one*, or rather as the *first commandment*, with its *explication*; by which means it comes about, that there are only *three* in the *first table*, teaching him his *duty* towards *God*, and *seven* in the *latter*, concerning his *duty* to his *Neighbour*; which is the *division* assigned by St. *Augustine*. And though St. *Hierom* observes not this method, but divides them into *four* and *six*; yet there being no direction in *scripture* concerning the *number* of the *commandments*, to be assigned to each *table*; nor to let us know, which is the *first*, which is *second*, which the *third* commandment, or which the *last*; he is taught that it is but an *unnecessary trouble*, to concern himself about the *number* of them, or *division*, when as his whole business ought to be, the *observance* of them in his life and *conversation*.

24. *Of mental Reservations.*

THE Papist misrepresented is taught to keep no faith with any that are reputed hereticks by his church ; and that whatsoever promise he has made, though never so positive and firm, with this sort of people, he may lawfully break, and cheat and cozen them without any scruple. And though he must not do this by down-right lying, and telling untruths ; for that would be a sin ; yet he may make use of any indirect ways, such as dissimulation, equivocations, and mental reservations, and by these means draw them into his snares ; and this without fear of offending God, who is well pleased with these kind of pious crafts, and allows of these holy cheats.

THE Papist truly represented is taught to keep faith with all sorts of people, of whatsoever judgment or persuasion they be, whether in communion with his church, or no ; he is taught to stand to his word, and observe his promise given, or made to any whatsoever : and that he cannot cheat or cozen, whether by *dissimbling, equivocations, or mental reservations*, without defiance of his own conscience, and the violation of God's law. This is the instruction he receives from the *pulpit, the confessional, and his books of direction*, and nothing is more inculcated in his church than sincerity and truth. But as to the doctrine and practice of *equivocations and mental reservations*, so far from being approved by his church, he finds it expressly censured by Pope *Innocent xi.* in a decree issued forth *March 2, 1679*, prohibiting the teaching or maintaining of it under pain of excommunication. He is taught therefore to speak plainly and sincerely, without any such like *artifices*, which cannot but be very injurious to all *society*, and displeasing to the *first truth*. And now if any *authors* in communion with his church, be produced as patrons and abettors of these *mental juggles*, let them hold up their hands, and answer for themselves : Their church has approved of no such doctrine, and is no more to be charged with their particular *opinions*, than with

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with the unexemplar lives of other her members, whose irregularities are not at all derived from their religion, but from following their own corrupt inclinations, and giving way to the temptations of their enemy.

25. *Of a Death-bed Repentance.*

THE Papist misrepresented is bred up in a total neglect of the service of God, and of all virtue and devotion, while he is well, and in good health, upon presumption of death-bed repentance, and a confidence, that all his sins will be certainly forgiven, if he can but once say, Lord, have mercy upon me, at the last hour. And it is a sufficient encouragement to him, to rely wholly upon this, to see that there is no such profligate villain, none that has lived, though to the height of wickedness and debauchery, in his communion; but at his death he shall be assisted by a priest, and shall receive an absolution from all his sins, with an absolute promise of being soon admitted to bliss, and reigning with Christ, if he can but once say, he is sorry; or if his voice fail him, signify as much by a nod of his head, or the motion of a finger.

THE Papist truly represented is bred up in the service and love of God, taught to work his salvation in fear and trembling, to provide in health-time against the last hour, and by no means to rely upon a death-bed-repentance: for that men, (generally speaking) as they live, so they die; and it is to be feared greatly, that those, who neglect God Almighty, and forsake him all their life-time, will never find him at their death. So that, (with St. Augustine) he doubts the salvation of as many as defer their conversion till that hour. However, if any are found, that have been so neglectful of their duty, as to put off this great business of eternity to the last moment, he is taught, that in charity, they ought to have all assistance possible, to put them in mind of their condition, to excite them to a hearty detestation of all their offences; to let them know that though they deserve hell-fire in punishment of their wickedness, yet that they ought by no means to despair, for

for that God is merciful; and, who knows, but if they heartily call upon him, and endeavour for a sincere repentance, with an humble confidence on the *merits* and *passion* of *Jesus Christ*, he may hear their prayers, shew them mercy, and give them time to repent. These are all the promises can be given in this point; and this is what he sees daily practised; and if some, by these means, are preserved from falling into despair, it is well: but as for any receiving from hence, encouragement of coming into the *like circumstances*, he thinks there is but little danger; especially since there is nothing so often repeated in books, no more common subjects for sermons, than the displaying the manifold perils of *delaying one's conversion*, and putting off *repentance till the last hour*.

### 26. Of Fasting.

THE Papist misrepresented is contented with the appearance of devotion; and looking not beyond the name of mortification, he sits down well satisfied with the shadow, without ever taking care for the substance. And thus being a great pretender to fasting, and the denial of himself, he thinks he has sufficiently complied with his duty in this point, and made good his claim; if he has but abstained from flesh; and though at the same time, he regales himself at noon, with all variety of the choicest fish, and stuffs himself at night with the best conserves, and delicatest junkets, and drinks all day the pleasantest wines, and other liquors: yet he persuades himself, that he is a truly mortified man, and that he has done a work of great force, in order to the suppressing his corrupt inclinations, and satisfying for the offences of his life past. Nay, he has such a preposterous conceit of things, that he believes it a greater sin to eat the least bit of flesh on a fasting-day, than to be down-right drunk, or commit any other excess: as having less scruple of breaking the commandments of God, than of violating any ordinance of the pope, or any law of his church.

THE Papist truly represented is taught by his church that the appearance of devotion, the name of mortification,

tion, and pretence to it, are only vain and fruitless things, if they are not accompanied with the substance. And that it is but a very lame compliance with the ecclesiastical precept of *fasting*, to abstain from *flesh*, unless all other *excesses* are at the same time carefully avoided. It is true, his *church* has not forbidden on these days the *drinking of wine*, but permits a moderate use of it, as at other times: But is so far from giving liberty to any of her *stock* of committing *excesses*, that she declares *drunkenness* and all *gluttony* whatsoever, to be more *heinous* and *scandalous* sins on *such days*, than any other: they being expressly contrary, not only to the *law of God*, but also to the intention of the *church*, which appoints these times for the retrenching *debaucheries* and conquering our vicious appetites. And now if any of his *profession* make less scruple of being *drunk* on a *fasting-day*, than of eating the least *bit of flesh*, he knows nothing more can be said of them, than of many of another *communion*, who will not break the *Sabbath-day* by doing any *servile work* on it, for all the world, looking on this as a most *damning sin*; and yet at the same time, have but little scruple of *swearing*, *cursing*, *lying*, or *revelling* the greatest part of the day. Which is not, because they have more liberty for these, than the former; they being all most wicked offences; but because they that do thus, are but christians *by balaues*, who with a kind of *pharisaical* and *partial obedience*, seem to bear some of the *commandments* most zealously in their *hearts*, while they trample others under their *feet*; scrupling many times at a *mote*, and on other occasions passing by a *beam* undiscerned: for which their *church* is not to be accountable, but they themselves, as being guilty of a wilful *blindnes*, and a most unchristian negligence. This is the real case of such of his *communion*, who, on days of *humiliation*, while they abstain from *flesh*, yet give scandal by their *intemperateness*. They have a command of God, by which they are obliged on *all* days to live *soberly*, and to avoid all *gluttony* and *drunkenness*; and on *fasting-days*, besides this command of God, they have a *church-precept*, by which they are bound (if able) to eat but *one meal* in a day, and that *not of flesh*.

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And now if some are so ignorant and careless, as to be scrupulously observant of one of these commands, and wholly negligent of the other; it is not because their religion teaches them to do so, (which detests and condemns all such *scandalous partiality*, and complying with their duty *by halves*) but because they shut their ears to all good instruction, and chuse rather to follow their own corrupt appetites, than the wholesome doctrine of their church.

### 27. *Of Divisions and Schisms in the Church.*

**T**HE Papist misrepresented is of a religion, in which there are as many schisms as families: and they are so divided in their opinions, that commonly, as many as meet in company, so many several tenets are maintained. Hence arise their infinite and endless disputes; and the disagreement of their divines, who pretend to give a true and solid explication of the mysteries of the christian faith, and yet differ in as many points as they write of. Besides, what variety of judgments is there in their religious houses and cloisters, no one agreeing with another, in their foundation, institution, and profession: This being of the religion of St. Dominick, that of St. Francis, a third of St. Bernard, others of St. Benedict; and so without number; so that as many orders as many religions. And yet they pretend to christian unity, amidst this diversity growing upon them every day.

**T**HE Papist truly represented is of a religion, in which there are no schisms or separations; all the members of it (however spread through the world) agreeing like one man, in every article of their faith, by an equal submission to the determination of their church. And no one of them, though most learned and wise, ever following any other rule in their faith besides this, of assenting to all, that the church of God, planted by Christ, assisted and protected by the Holy Ghost, proposes to the faithful to be believed as the doctrine of the apostles, and received as such in all ages. That is, all unanimously to believe as the church of God believes. No one of his communion ever doubting of this, or scrupling to receive any thing after his

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his church's declaration. And now, though they all thus conspire in every point of faith; yet there is great diversity among school-men in their divinity-points and opinions of such matters, as are no articles of faith, and which being never defined by their church, may be maintained severally, either this or that way, without any breach of faith, or injury to their religion: and of these things only they dispute, and have their debates in manner of a school-exercise, without any disagreement at all in their belief, but with a perfect unity. The like unity is there amongst their religious orders, all which say the same Creed, own the same authority in the church of Christ; and in every thing profess the same faith; and have no other differences, than as it were of so many several steps, or degrees in the practice of a devout and holy life. Some being of a more severe and strict discipline, others of a more gentle and moderate. Some spending more time in praying, others more in watching, others more in fasting; some being intended for the catechising, and breeding up of youth; others for taking care of hospitals, and looking after the sick; others for going among infidels, and preaching to them the Gospel of Christ, and for such like pious and christian designs, to the greater glory and honour of God. Which differences make no other difference in the several professors, than there was between Mary and Martha, who expressed their love and service to their Lord in a very different employ; but both commendably, and without any danger of prejudicing the unity of their faith.

28. *Of Fryars and Nuns.*

THE Papist misrepresented is taught to have a high esteem for all those of his communion, who cloistering themselves up, become Fryars and Nuns; a sort of people who call themselves religious, and are nothing but a religious cheat; under the cloak of piety, and pretence to devotion, deceiving the world; and living to the height of wickedness, under the notion of Saints.

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THE Papist truly represented is taught to have a high esteem for those of his communion, who undertake that sort of life, which according to Christ's own direction, and his apostles, is pointed out as the best. A sort of people who endeavour to perform all that God has commanded, and also what he has counselled as the better, and in order to more perfection. They hear Christ declaring the danger of riches; they therefore embrace a voluntary poverty, and lay aside all titles to wealth and possessions. St. Paul preaches that *he that giveth not his Virgin in marriage, doth better than he that does; and that she that is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord, how she may be holy both in body and in spirit.* they therefore chuse a single state, consecrating their Virginity to God; that so they may be wholly intent on his service, and be careful how to please him; while she that is married cares for the things of the world, *how she may please her husband,* 1 Cor. vii. 32, 33, 34, 38. The gospel proclaims, that those that will follow Christ, must deny themselves; they therefore renounce their own wills, and without respect to their own proper inclinations, pass their life in a perpetual obedience. And because the world is corrupt, so that to a pious soul every business is a distraction, every diversion a temptation, and more frequently provocations to evil, than examples to good; they therefore retire from it as much as possible, and confining themselves to a little corner or cell, apply themselves wholly to devotion, making prayer their business, the service of God their whole employ, and the salvation of their souls their only design. And now, if in these retirements, where every thing is ordered as it may be most advantageous for the promoting virtue and devotion, and nothing permitted that is likely to prove a disturbance to godliness, or allurement to evil, yet some (for, God be praised it is far from being the case of the generality) live scandalously, and give ill example to the world: what can be said, but that no state can secure any man; and that no such provision can be made in order to a holy life, but it may be abused? But yet he does not think that such abuses, and the viciousness of some, can be argument enough

enough to any just and reasonable man, to condemn the *whole* and the *institution* itself. Is not *marriage* abused an infinite number of ways, and many forced to embrace this state, or at least to accept of such particular persons contrary to their own choice and liking? Is there any state in this world, any condition, trade, calling, profession, degree, or dignity whatsoever, which is not abused by some? Are *churches* exempt from abuses? Are not *bibles* and the *word of God* abused? Is not *christianity* itself abused, and even the *mercy of God* abused? If therefore there is nothing so sacred and divine in the whole world, which wicked and malicious men do not pervert to their ill designs, to the high dishonour of *God*, and their own damnation: how can any one, upon the mere consideration of some abuses, pass sentence of condemnation against a thing, which otherwise is *good and holy*? It is an undeniable truth, that to embrace a life exempt, as much as can be, from the tourmoils of the world; and in a quiet retirement to dedicate one's self to the *service of God*, and spend one's days in *prayer* and *contemplation*, is a most commendable undertaking, and very becoming a *christian*. And yet, if some, who enter such a course of life as this, fall short of what they pretend, and instead of becoming eminent in *virtue* and *godliness*, by their un-exemplar lives, prove a *scandal* to their *profession*; is their *rule* and *institution* to be condemned; or rather, they who swerve from it? No, let not the dignity of an *apostle* suffer for the fall of *Judas*: nor the *commandments* lie under an aspersion upon the account of those that break them.

29. *Of wicked Principles and Practices.*

THE Papist misrepresented is a member of a church which is called *holy*, but in her doctrine and practices is so foul and abominable, that whosoever admires her for sanctity, may upon the same grounds do homage to vice itself. Has ever any society, since *Christ's* time, appeared in the world so black and deformed with *hellish* crimes as she? Has not *she* outdone even the most barbarous nations and infidels, with her *impieties*, and drawn a *scandal* upon the name of *christian*, *ignorance*.

christian, by her unparalleled vices? Take but a view of the horrid practices she has been engaged in; consider the French and Irish massacres, the murders of Henry III. and IV. Kings of France, the holy league, the Gun-powder-treason, the cruelty of Queen Mary, the firing of London, the death of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey; and an infinite number of other such like devilish contrivances; and then tell me, whether that church, which has been the author and promoter of such barbarous designs, ought to be esteemed holy, and respected for piety and religion, or rather to be condemned for the mistress of iniquity, the whore of Babylon, which hath polluted the earth with her wickedness, and taught nothing but the doctrine of devils? And let never so many pretences be made; yet it is evident, that all these execrable practices have been done according to the known principles of this holy church, and that her greatest patrons, the most learned of her divines, her most eminent bishops, her prelates, cardinals, and even the popes themselves, have been the chief managers of these hellish contrivances. And what more convincing argument that they are all well approved, and conform to the religion taught by their church?

THE Papist truly represented is member of a church, which, according to the ninth article of the Apostles Creed, he believes to be holy; and this not only in name, but also in doctrine; and for witness of her sanctity, he appeals to her councils, catechisms, pulpits, and spiritual books of direction; in which the main design is, to imprint in the hearts of the faithful, this comprehensive maxim of christianity; that they ought to love God above all things, with their whole heart and soul; and their neighbour as themselves: and that none should flatter themselves with a confidence to be saved by faith alone, without living soberly, justly, and piously; as it is in the council of Trent, Sess. 6. c. 11. So that he doubts not at all, but that as many as live according to the direction of his church, and in observance of her doctrine, live holily in the service and fear of God, and with an humble confidence in the merits and passion of their Redeemer, may hope to be received after this life into eternal bliss. But that all in communion

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with his *church* do not live thus *holily*, and in the fear of God, he knows it is too too evident; there being many in all places, wholly forgetful of their duty, giving themselves up to vice, and guilty of most horrid crimes. And though he is not bound to believe all to be *truth*, that is charged upon them by *adversaries*; there being no *narrative* of any such devilish contrivances and practices laid to them, wherein *passion* and *fury* have not made great *additions*; wherein things *dubious*, are not improved into *certainties*, *suspicions* into *realities*, *fears* and *jealousies* into *substantial plots*, and *downright lies*, and *recorded perjuries* into *pulpit*, nay, *Gospel-truths*. Yet he really thinks, that there have been men of his *profession* of every rank and degree, learned and unlearned, high and low, secular and ecclesiastick, that have been scandalous in their lives, wicked in their designs, without the fear of God in their hearts, or care of their own salvation. But what then? Is the whole *church* to be condemned for the vicious lives of some of her *professors*; and her *doctrine* to stand guilty of as many villainies as those commit, who neglect to follow it? If so, let the men of that *society*, *judgment*, or *persuasion*, who are not in the like circumstances, *fling the first stone*. Certainly if this way of passing sentence be once allowed as just and reasonable, there never was, nor never will be, any *religion* or *churh* of God upon the earth. A *confident* undertaker would find no difficulty in proving this; especially if he had but the *gift* of *exaggerating* some things, *misrepresenting* others, of finding *authors* for every idle story, of charging the extravagant opinions of every *single* writer upon the *religion* they profess, of raking together all the wickedness, cruelties, treacheries, plots, conspiracies, at any time committed, by any ambitious desperado's or wicked villains: And then positively asserting, that what these did, was according to the *doctrine* of that *church* of which they were members; and that the true measures of the *sanctity* and *goodness* of the *church* in whose communion these men were, may be justly taken from the behaviour of such *offenders*. But certainly no man of reason and conscience can allow of such proceedings. No sober man would ever go to

*Newgate*

*Newgate or Tyburn*, to know what is the *religion* professed in *England* according to *law*; nor would look into all the *Sinks*, *Jakes*, *Dung-hills*, *Common-shores* about town, from such a prospect to give a true description of the city. Why therefore should the character of the *church of Rome* and her *doctrine* be taken only from the loose behaviour and wicked crimes of such, who, though in communion with her, yet live not according to her direction? She teaches holiness of life, mercy to the poor, loyalty and obedience to princes, and the necessity of keeping the *commandments*, (witness the many books of devotion and direction, made *English* for publick benefit, written originally by *papists*,) and great numbers there are (God be praised) who practise this in their lives. And now if there be many also who stop their ears to good instruction, and following the suggestion of their own ungoverned appetites, of pride, ambition, covetousness, luxury, &c. so lay aside all concern of salvation, and become unchristian both to God and their neighbour, that they are a shame to their *profession*: Why should the *church* be represented according to the *wickedness* of those that neglect her *doctrine*; and not rather by the piety and exemplar lives of such as follow it? Let the *character* of the *church* be given according to what she teaches, and not according to the *writings* of every *positive opiniator*, or the *practices* of every wicked liver, and then there is no fear of its coming out so ugly and deformed. Neither let any one pretend to demonstrate the *faith* and *principles* of the *papists*, by the *works* of every *divine* in that *communion*; or by the *actions* of every *Bishop*, *Cardinal*, or *Pope*; which are not any *rule* of their *faith*. They own that many of their *writers* are too loose in their *opinions*, that all *Bishops* and *Cardinals* are not so edifying as becomes their *state*; and that *Popes* may have their failings too. But what then? These *actions* of *Popes* concern not the *faith* of those who are in communion with them; they may throw a scandal indeed upon the *religion*, but they can never alter its *Creed*. But what need any other return to the numerous clamours made daily against the *wickedness* of the *papists*? It is a sufficient vindication of their

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chief *Pastor*, and *Popes*, (to use the words of *Lord Castlemain* in his *Apology*) that among two hundred and fifty, that have now successively bore the charge, there are not above ten or twelve, against whom their most malicious adversaries can find occasion of spitting their venom; and that a challenge may be made to the world, to shew but the fifth part o' so many *successive governors*, since the creation, of which there have not been far more that have *abused* their *power*. And as for their *flock*, and people owning this *authority*, it is true, many wicked things have been done by some of them; and too many, like *libertines*, neglect the care of their souls: But however the *generality* of them live like *christians*; few come to them, but with their *religion* they change also their *manner*s for the better; few desert them, but such who seem to be fallen out with all *christianity*; and whosoever will look into any of our neighbouring *popish* towns, as *Paris*, *Antwerp*, *Gaunt*, &c. will find in any one of them, more *praying*, more *fasting*, more *receiving the sacraments*, more *visiting of prisoners and the sick*, more *alms-giving*, than in any ten towns of the *Reformation*.

## 30. *Of Miracles.*

THE Papist misrepresented is so given up to the belief of idle stories and ridiculous inventions in favour of his *Saints*, which he calls *miracles*, that nothing can be related so every way absurd, foolish, and almost impossible, but it gains credit with him; and he is credulously confident of the truth of them; so that there is no difference to him, betwixt these tales, and what he reads in scripture.

THE Papist truly represented is not obliged to believe any one *miracle*, besides what is in the *scripture*; and for all others, he may give the credit, which in *prudence* he thinks they deserve, considering the *honesty* of the *relator*, the *authority* of the *witnesses*, and such other *circumstances*, which on the like occasions use to gain his assent. And now if upon the account of mere history, and the consent of Authors, none make any doubt, but that

that there was such a one as *Cæsar*, *Alexander*, *Mahomet*, *Luther*, &c. or of many particulars of their lives and actions, why should he doubt of the truth of many *miracles*, which have not only the like consent of *authors* and *history*, but also have been attested by great numbers of *eye-witnesses*, examined by *authority*, and found upon record, with all the formalities due to such a process? St. *Augustine* relates many *miracles* done in his time, so does St. *Jerom*, and other *fathers*; and if they doubted nothing of them then, why should he question the truth of them now? He finds, that in the time of the *old law*, God favoured many of his servants, working *miracles* by their hands; and he thinks that God's hand is not shortened now; that the *disciples* of *Christ* are no less *favourites* of heaven, than those of *Moses*; and that the *new law* may be very well allowed to be as *glorious*, and as particularly *privileged* as the *old*: especially since *Christ* promised that they that believed in him *should do greater miracles than ever he himself had done*, (St. John xiv. 12.) And what if some *miracles* (recounted by *authors*) are so wonderfully *strange* as to seem to some *ridiculous* and *absurd*, are they less true upon this account? Is not every thing *ridiculous* to *unbelievers*? The whole *doctrine* of *Christ* is a *scandal* to the *Jews*, and *folly* to the *gentiles*. And what more *absurd* to one that wants *faith*, than the *miracles* recounted in the *old testament*? Might not such a one turn them all into *ridicule* and *buffoonry*? Take but *faith* away, and what becomes of *Balaam* and his *ass*, *Samson* and his *jaw-bone*, *Elias* and his *fiery chariot*, *Elisha's mantle*, *ax head*, and *dead bones*, *Gideon's pitchers*, *lamps* and *trumpets*, the fall of the walls of *Jericho*, *Moses* his holding up his hands for the victory over his enemies, his parting of the *red sea*, and *Joshua* commanding the sun to stand still, &c. Might not these, and all the rest be painted out as *ridiculous*, as any supposed to be done since *Christ's* time? A little *incredulity*, accompanied with a *presumption* of measuring God's works by human wisdom, will really make the greatest part of them *pals for follies*, and *absurd impossibilities*. And though he is so far from giving equal assent to the *miracles* related in *scripture*, and the others

wrought since, that the former he believes with a *divine faith*, and the rest with an *inferior* kind of assent, according to the grounds and authority there is in favour of them, like as he does in prophane history: Yet the *strangeness* of these never makes him in the least doubt of the *truth* of them, since it is evident to him, that all the works of *heaven* far surpass all his *reasoning*, and that while he endeavours but to look even into the very *ordinary* things daily wrought by God Almighty, he quite loses himself, and is bound to confess his own *ignorance* and *folly*, and that God is *wonderful* in all his *works*, a God *surpassing* all our knowledge. Whatsoever therefore is related upon good grounds, as done by the extraordinary power of God, he is ready to assent to it, although he sees neither the *how*, the *why*, nor the *wherefore*; being ready to attribute all to the honour and praise of his *Maker*, to whose omnipotent hand most of poor man's impossibles are none.

### 31. *Of Holy Water.*

THE Papist *miserably approves the superstitious use of many inanimate things*, and attributes wonderful effects to such creatures, which are but in a very inferior rank, and able to do no such things. Holy water is in great esteem with him, so are blessed candles, holy-oil, &c. in all which he puts so much confidence; that by the power of these, he thinks himself secure from witchcraft, enchantment, and all the power of the devil.

THE Papist truly represents utterly disapproves all sorts of *superstition*. And yet is taught to have an esteem for *holy-water*, *blessed candles*, and *holy-oil*, not doubting but that as such men, who have consecrated themselves to the service of God, in the preaching the *gospel* and administration of the *sacraments*, have a particular respect due to them above the *laity*; as *churches* dedicated to God are otherwise to be looked on, than other *dwelling-houses*: so likewise these other creatures, which are particularly deputed by the *prayers* and *blessing* of the *priest* to certain uses for God's own *glory*, and the *spiritual* and

and corporal good of christians, ought to be respected in a degree above other common things. And what *superstition* is there in the use of them? Has not God himself prescribed such inanimate things, and holy men made use of them, for an intent above their natural power; and this without any *superstition*? Was there *superstition* in the *waters of jealousy*, *Numb. v. 17.* or in the *salt* used by *Elisa* for sweetening the infected waters? Was it *superstition* in *Christ* to use *clay* for opening the eyes of the blind? or in the apostles to make use of *oil* for the curing of the sick? *Mark. vi. 13.* And though there be no express command in scripture, for blessing water, candles, &c. yet there is this assurance, that *every creature is sanctified by the word of God and prayer*, *1 Tim. iv. 5.* and frequent promises, that *God will hear the prayers of the faithful*. Why therefore should he doubt, but that these creatures, on which the *blessing* of God is solemnly implored by the *word of God*, and the *prayers* of the priest and people, for their *sanctification*, are really *sanctified*, according to the *assurance* of the *apostle*, and the *promises* of *God*? St. *Cyril of Jerusalem*, who lived in the beginning of the fourth century, made no question, but, that as to those things, which are offered to idols, though *pure* in their own *nature*, are made *impure* by the *innovation* of devils: so on the contrary, *simple water* is made *holy*, and gets a *sanctity*, by virtue received from the invocation of the *Holy Ghost*, of *Christ our Lord*, and his eternal Father, (*Cyr. Catech.*) And that *blessed water* was capable, by virtue received from heaven, of working effects above its own *nature*, was certainly the sentiment of the christians in the primitive times: St. *Epiphanius* (*Tom. 2. l. 1. cont. b. 2. 30.*) relates a passage at length, how water being *blessed in the name of Jesus*, and sprinkled upon fire, which by *witchcraft* was made unactive, and hindered from burning, immediately the *enchantment* ceased, and the fire burned. As also that a *possessed* person being sprinkled with *blessed water*, the party was immediately cured. *Theodoret* has the like narration of the Devil hindering fire from burning, and how he was chased away, and the charm dissolved by *blessed water* being thrown on it,

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(lib. 5. Eccles. hist. c. 21.) And St. Jerome relates (in vita Hilarion.) how *Italicus* took water from blessed *Hilarion*, and cast it on his bewitched horses, his chariot, and the barriers from whence he used to run, and that the charm of witchery did cease upon the sprinkling this water; so that all cried out, *Marnas vicitus est a Christo; Christus batuconquered Marnas*, (the idol) And now there is no jeering and ridiculing these things, will ever make them look like idle Superstitions, to one that considers seriously, how much they are grounded upon reason, the word of God, antiquity, and the authority and practice of the catholick church; which approves the use of them; yet so as plainly to teach that there is no confidence to be put in any thing, but only in *Iesus Christ*; and that what power these things have, they have not of themselves, but only from heaven, and by the invocation of the name of *Iesus*; who as by his heavenly blessing he enables us to do things above the power of nature; so also by the prayers of his church, he *blesses* these things, in order to the working effects above their own natural qualities, that by them his fatherly benefits may be applied to us, and that so the faithful may more particularly honour and bless him in all his creatures.

### 32. Of breeding up People in Ignorance.

THE Papist misrepresented is trained up in ignorance; and it is the chief means made use of by his church, for preserving men in that communion, to bide from them her manifold mysteries of iniquity, her sorish superstitions, her unchristian doctrines, by performing all in unknown tongues, and not permitting the poor misled people to look into, or understand any thing that they believe or profess. And by this blindness they are persuaded to embrace such infinite numbers of gross errors, that were but the veil taken from their eyes, but for one half hour, and they but permitted to have one fair prospect of their religion, thousands and thousands would daily desert her, and come over to the truth.

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THE Papist truly represented has all the liberty, encouragement and convenience of becoming learned, of any people or persuasion whatsoever. And none that has ever looked over any library, and found that the greatest numbers and choicest books of all sciences, have men of his communion for their authors: None that in his travels, has taken a thorough view of the universities in popish countries, of *Paris*, *Louvain*, *Salamanca*, *Bologna*, &c. and considered their laborious studies, in *philosophy*, *divinity*, *history*, the *fathers*, *councils*, *scriptures*, &c. And besides, the students here, has seen how many thousands there are in *religious houses*, who, free from the disturbances of the world, make virtue and learning the business of their whole life; will ever lay *ignorance* to the charge of the *Papists*; but must in justice confess, that amongst them are to be found as many, and as great scholars, as amongst any people or societies in the world. And as for the *vulgar* and *common* sort of that *profession*, though they understand not *Latin*, yet are not they trained up in *ignorance* of their Religion, nor led along in *blindness*; but are so provided of books in their own *mother-tongue*, of instruction and devotion, wherein is explained the *whole duty* of a *christian*, every *mystery* of their *faith*, and all the *offices* and *ceremonies* performed in the *church*; that they must be very negligent, or else have very mean parts, who do not arrive at a sufficient knowledge of their *obligation* in every respect. And whoever has seen the great pains and care some *good men* take abroad, in explaining (on *sundays* and *holy-days* in their *churches*, and on *week-days* in the *streets*,) the *christian doctrine* to the crowds of the ignorant and meaner sort of people, not omitting to reward such as answer well with some small gifts, to encourage youth, and provoke them to a commendable emulation; will never say, that the *Papists* keep the poor people in *ignorance*, and hide from them their *religion*; but rather that they use all means for instructing the *ignorant*, and omit nothing that can any ways conduce to the breeding up of *youth* in the *knowledge* of their *faith*, and letting them see into the *religion* they are to profess. Nei-

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ther does it seem to him, even so much as probable, that if the church offices and service, &c. were performed in the vulgar tongue, that upon this the now ignorant people would immediately discover so many idle superstitions, senseless devotions, and gross errors, that they would in great numbers upon the sight become deserters of that communion, in which now they are professed members. For since there is nothing done but in a language, which the learned, judicious and leading Men of all nations every where understand, and yet these espy nothing to fright them from their faith; but notwithstanding the seeing all through and through, they yet admire all for solid, holy and apostolical, and remain steadfast in their profession; how can it be imagined, that the vulgar, weak and unlearned sort (did they understand all as well as they,) would espy any such errors and superstitions, which these others, with all their learning and judgment cannot discover? No, he thinks there is no reason to fear, that what passes the test among the wise and learned, can be groundedly called in question by the multitude.

## 33. Of the Uncharitableness of the Papists.

THE Papist as misrepresented is taught by his church to be very uncharitable, and to damn all that are not of his persuasion: so that let persons be ever so just in their dealings, ever so charitable to the poor, ever so constant in their devotions; though they confess Jesus Christ, and believe his incarnation, passion, resurrection and ascension. yet if they are not in the communion of his church; or if they disbelieve any one article declared by any of his general councils, he marks them out for schismatics and heretics, and sends them to hell without mercy.

THE Papist truly represented is taught by his church an universal charity for all mankind; to wish well to all, to pray for all, to exercise both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, according to his ability, to all, of what persuasion soever. But then charity and truth are not to be separated: and it would be a false charity, to promise heaven

heaven to any of those whom the word of God condemns to hell. Hence he thinks it no part of the duty of *charity*, to judge favourably of the salvation of any of those that die in *mortal sin* unrepented of: for such a judgment as this would do them no service, and would hurt himself. Now if we believe plain scripture, and the universal tradition of the fathers, and all antiquity, *heresy* and *schism* are *mortal sins*; and therefore in saying that *hereticks*, and *schismaticks*, are out of the state of salvation, his judgment is not *uncharitable*, because he advances nothing but a *scripture truth*. St. Paul in plain terms declares the same, *Galat. v. 20, 21.* where he reckons *sects* or *heresies* amongst those sins of which he pronounces that *they that do such things, shall not inherit the kingdom of God*. Nor is he *uncharitable* in judging those guilty of *heresy* that *obstinately* refuse to believe any part of the divine revelation; and those guilty of *schism*, that *wilfully* separate themselves from the communion of the church, and refuse a due subordination to its *pastors*; since scripture and all antiquity give us no other definition of *heresy* and *schism*.

*In what then are papists uncharitable?* Is it because they charge all with *heresy* and *schism* that are not in their communion? No: for they except all those whose being out of their communion is owing, not to any *obstinacy*, *carelessness*, *worldly interest*, or *human respects*; but purely to their being deprived of the means of knowing the truth, which they would gladly embrace if they knew it. For such as these in the desire and disposition of their souls are in the church, and therefore are neither *hereticks* nor *schismaticks*. Or, are they *uncharitable* in restraining the whole church of Christ to one communion; and believing that to be their own? No: for nothing is more evident in scripture, nothing more unanimously received by all antiquity as a first principle in religion, than that the church of Christ can be but *one, one fold under one Shepherd, one body, one spouse, one house, one city, one kingdom, and consequently one society united in one faith, and in one communion*, established at first by Christ and his blessed *Apollces*; and descending by an uninterrupted succession

from them, ever *one, holy, catholick and apostolical*; and that the *wilful* breaking off from this *original communion* is the crime of *schism*; as the departing from its *faith* is the crime of *heresy*. So that it is evident, that *many* *sects* *disagreeing* in *faith*, and *divided* in *communion*, cannot *compound* the *one, holy, catholick, and apostolick church of Christ*. And therefore it cannot be *uncharitable* to maintain that the whole church is but in *one communion*. And as all the marks of the church agree to no other *communion* but his; it cannot be *uncharitable* in the Papist to believe that his church is the true church of Christ, and upon this conviction to invite all to her *communion*. For she alone has an *uninterrupted* *succession* of her *pastors* from the *apostles of Christ*. She alone has been always *one*; by all her *members* *professing* *one* *faith*, in *one communion*, under *one* *chief pastor* *succeeding* St. *Peter*, to whom Christ committed the charge of his whole flock, St. *John* xxi. 15, &c. and the *keys of heaven*, St. *Mat.* xvi. 19. She alone has been always *holy*; by teaching all *holiness*, by inviting all to *holiness*, by affording all *helps* and *means* of *holiness*, and by having in *all ages*, innumerable *holy ones* in her *communion*. She alone is *catholick* or *universal*, by subsisting in *all ages*, by teaching *all nations*, and by maintaining *all truths*. She alone is *apostolical*, by deriving her *doctrine*, her *communion*, her *orders* and her *commission* from the *apostles of Christ*. She alone has converted *infidel nations* with their *kings* to the *faith of Christ*; and to this day sends her *priests* and *missioners* into *all parts* of the *world*, to propagate the *kingdom of Christ*; she alone has been in *all ages* illustrated by innumerable *miracles*, and by the *wonderful lives* and *deaths* of innumerable *saints*. All other *sects* begun by separating from her, their *first teachers* went out from her; and had before acknowledged her *authority*: they were all censured by her, at their *first appearance*: But she never departed or separated from any more *ancient church*, or was ever censured by any *lawful authority*. In a word, she is the *great body* of *Christians*, descending from the *primitive* and *apostolick church*: Consequently she is the *one, holy, catholick, and apostolical church*.

34. Of Innovation in Matters of Faith.

THE papish church as misrepresented has made several innovations in matters of faith, and howsoever she lays claim to antiquity, with a pretence of having preserved the doctrine of the apostles inviolable and entire; yet it is evident to any serious observer, that the greatest part of her belief is mere novelties; not bearing date from Christ or his apostles, but only from some of her own more modern synods. There scarce having passed any age yet, wherein there has not, in these ecclesiastical mints, been coined new articles, which with the counterfeit stamp of Christ and his apostles, are made to pass for good and current, amongst her credulous and undiscerning retainers: And, besides these, what a great number of errors have been introduced at other times; how many did Pope Gregory bring in, and how many the ignorance of the tenth age? So that if we compare the church of Rome now, with the primitive times of the first three or four hundred years, there are no two things so unlike; she is a garden now, but quite overgrown with weeds; she is a field, but where the tares have perfectly choaked up the wheat, and has little in her of apostolical besides the name.

THE Papists church truly represented has never made any innovation in matters of faith; what she believes and teaches now, being the same that the catholick church believed and taught, in the first three or four centuries after the Apostles. And though in most of her general council's there have been several decisions touching points of faith; yet can no one, without an injury to truth, say, that in any of these have been coined new articles, or Christians forced to the acceptance of novelties, contrary to scripture, or ancient tradition. These have only trodden in the apostles steps; as often as they have been in the like circumstances with them; doing exactly according to the form and example left to the church by those perfect masters of christianity. And therefore as the apostles in their assembly (Act 15.) determined the controversy concerning the circumcision;

circumcision; and proposed to the faithful, what was the doctrine of Christ in that point, of *necessity* to be believed; of which till that decision, there had been raised several questions and doubts; but now no longer to be questioned, without the shipwreck of faith. So in all succeeding ages the elders of the church, to whom the *apostles* left their commission of watching over the flock, in their councils have never scrupled to determine all such points, as were controverted amongst christians, and to propose to them, what of *necessity* they were to believe for the future; with *anathema* pronounced against all such, as should presume to preach the contrary. Thus in the year 325, the first *Nicene council* declared the Son of God to be *consubstantial* to his *Father*; against the *Arians*; with an obligation on all to assent to this doctrine, though never till then proposed or declared in that form. Thus in the first *Ephesian council*, *Anno 431*, *Nestorius* was condemned, who maintained two persons in Christ, and that the *blessed Virgin* was not mother of God; with a declaration, that both these his *tenets* were contrary to the *catholic* faith. Thus in the second *Nicene council*, *Anno 787*, *Image-breakers* were anathematized. Thus in the great council of *Lateran*, *Anno 1215*, *transubstantiation* was declared: the sufficiency of *communion in one kind* in the council of *Constance*: *Purgatory* in the council of *Florence*: and all these, together with the sacrifice of the mass, the invocation of *Saints*, &c. in the council of *Trent*, against *Luther*, *Calvin*, &c. And now, though in all these and the other general councils, the persons condemned took occasion, from these *new declarations*, to cry out; *Novelties*, *novelties*, to fright the people with the noise of *new coined articles*, and that the *inventions of Men* were imposed on them, for *faith*: yet it is evident that these *new declarations* contained nothing but the *ancient faith*; and that there would never have been any such *declarations* made, had not the *ancient doctrine* proposed in them, been opposed and contradicted by some seducing spirits, who going out from the flock, endeavoured, by making divisions, to draw numbers after them. So that the *new proposal* of a *tenet*, is but a *fallacious proof* of the *doctrine* being *lately invented*; but

but a good argument of its being lately opposed. It is certain from scripture (Act xv.) that the apostles had never declared the non-necessity of circumcision, had not certain men come down from Judea, and taught the brethren the contrary. And that the consubstantiality of the Son, had never been defined by the Nicene Fathers, had not Arius, with his followers, opposed this catholick doctrine. And as certain it is, that the council of Trent had been altogether silent as to transubstantiation, praying to Saints, &c. had not Luther, Calvin, and their disciples, once professors of this doctrine, gone out from the flock, and upon the presumption of a new light, endeavoured to persuade the faithful, that these tenets, then believed by the whole christian world, were no longer to be owned; but to be quite thrown by, as antichristian and diabolical. It was this obliged the pastors to watch and take care of their flock; and therefore not flying away, as the hireling does, when the wolf catcheth and scattereth the sheep; they assembled together into a body, and declared to all, under their charge, that they ought not to follow strangers; that, howsoever these came pretending to the shepherd's voice, yet since they came not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbing up some other way, they were not shepherds; but thieves and robbers; such whose busines was not to feed; but to steal, kill and destroy. It was this made them encourage all under their care, not to waver; but to stand fast, and hold the profession of their faith, and notwithstanding all pretences, by no means to suffer themselves to be deluded, and led away with strange doctrine; and that they might the better secure them from falling into errors, they gave them a draught of their christian doctrine; especially of all those points, which these modern self-commissionated apostles did preach against, and endeavour to undermine; particularly declaring to them, the faith they had been bred up in, which they had received from their forefathers, and which had been derived even down from the apostles. Securing them, that whatsoever was contrary to this, was novelty and error. And now in the pastor, declaring this to the faithful, where was the innovation? The council did nothing but propose fully and explicitly, what, before their

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their meeting, was the doctrine of all Christendom, and had been so amongst the primitive fathers. It was they made the innovation, who preached contrary to the doctrine thus believed and received; which *Luther* was not ashamed to own himself guilty of; plainly acknowledging, that he separated from the whole world.

But it seems that the whole world was then corrupted, and the religion then every where professed, was overgrown with superstitions, errors and abominations; such as had crept into the church, some five hundred years before, some nine hundred, and some a thousand; and it was from these *Luther* separated, intending to reform christianity, and bring it to the purity of the primitive times, of the first three hundred years. And was it not very strange now, that so many gross fooleries, wicked superstitions, and even down-right idolatry should creep into the church, and spreading itself through all nations, infect the whole world, becoming the publick profession of christendom for so many hundred years, and be confirmed and established by the laws of every kingdom; and that no body should take notice of any such thing, either at its first rise, or in all its progress of so many ages: Insomuch, that had not *Luther* made the discovery, it is likely we should never have come to the knowledge of these thousand years errors and corruptions? Surely no thinking man can judge it possible that the very fundamentals of christianity should be shaken, and the religion planted by the apostles turned into idolatry; and yet that no learned man should any where appear to contradict these abominations, no zealous pastors to withstand them, no pious princes to oppose them. History sufficiently satisfies any curious reader, that from the first planting of the church, there has not been in any age, any man yet that has preached any heterodox and erroneous tenets, and by introducing novelties, has endeavoured to infect the minds of the faithful with heresy and superstition; but immediately there have stood up virtuous and learned men, in defence of the truth; in their writings and sermons publickly confuting and condemning the errors, and giving an alarm to the world to beware of such deceivers, and their wicked doctrine;

trine; and withal, never omitting to record their names to posterity, with an account of the time when they began to preach; under what emperors, and what was the occasion of their revolt. Was not all this, and even more, done against Arius? How many appeared against the Manichees? How many against the Donatists; against the Novatians, against the Macedonians, the Nestorians, the Eutychians, the Pelagians, the Berengarians? So that never any thing has made so much noise in the world, so many commotions, so many disturbances; nothing has been so impossible to be carried on with secrecy and silence, as the broaching any new heresy, the making a schism, the alteration of religion, the starting up of some new society and pretenders to reformation. What tumults did all the fore-mentioned sectaries raise, in preaching their new gospel? What stirs and commotion ensued at the reformation, of church and faith, pretended by Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin? How then can it be judged in the least probable, that a great variety of erroneous tenets and antichristian doctrines should be introduced by the Papists, contrary to the sense and belief of all christianity, either in the fourth, fifth, sixth, or tenth century; and yet that there should not be the least disturbance occasioned by it, no tumults or opposition; but all done with so much quietness, in such a profound peace and silence, that had it not been for the news brought, some ages after, we had never suspected the alteration? And is this possible? Is it possible, that the whole christian world should change their religion, both as to the internal belief, and external profession and exercise of it; and no body be sensible of the change, so as to withstand the abomination, or to transmit to posterity, even so much as the least word of its beginning or propagation? Let any man upon some consideration, tell me, whether it be possible, that this one little kingdom of England should fall from this pure apostolical doctrine it now professes, into down-right popery, (or any other way alter the whole scheme of its religion) and have the alteration confirmed by several Acts of Parliament, and continue in the publick exercise of it for 1000, 500, or even 100 years, and yet no one in the kingdom,

or

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or out of it, should be sensible of the alteration ; but all to be managed with such *policy* and *craft*, that the whole business should be a *secret* for many ages ? And if this be scarce to be thought possible of this one kingdom ; what can be imagined, when it is affirmed of many nations, of the whole christian world ? Can any thing look more like a *fable* or *romance* ? Or can any rational man, barely upon such a *report*, condemn the *faith* and *religion* of his *ancestors*, for *novelty* and *human inventions* ; and quite laying aside this, take the man for the rule of his *reformation*, who thus, without reason, justice or truth, has thrown such infamy upon all the christians preceding him for a thousand years ?

But not to insist on these reasonings, for the wiping off the scandal of *novelty* from the doctrine of the church of *Rome* ; it would not be amiss here, to look beyond the tenth century, as also beyond the time of *Pope Gregory*. And if in those earlier Christians nothing can be found of that *faith* and *profession*, which is charged as *novelty* and *error* against the church of *Rome* ; all the *papists* in the world shall join with their *adversaries*, and condemning *Pope Gregory* for a *seducer*, and all of the tenth age for *Ignoramus's*, shall in one voice with them cry out against all such *doctrine*, *Novelty*, *novelty*, *error*, *error*. But if, on the contrary, every point thus challenged of *novelty*, shall appear to have been the *profession* of the *faithful* in the time of the *parity* of the *Gospel* ; if before *Pope Gregory* we find that *invocation* of *Saints*, the *real presence*, *transubstantiation*, *purgatory*, *prayer for the dead*, the *use* of *holy images*, *relics*, the *sign of the cross*, &c. were a *received doctrine* and *common practice* of *christians* in those *primitive times* : then shall the *papists* remain as they are, as being of the same *faith* and *religion*, with those *ancient believers*, without any *additions* and *alterations* ; and all their *adversaries* ought in justice to retract their imputation of *novelty* to the *ancient faith*.

In order to this, I intended in this place to have given the reader a fair prospect of the *doctrine* and *belief* of the *Fathers*, of the first five hundred years after *Christ* ; but finding the matter to increase so much beyond expectation

upon

upon my hands, I have reserved them for another occasion (a). But however, upon confidence of what I am able to produce in that point, I cannot omit to assure the reader, that the chief and most material points charged upon the church of *Rome* for *novelty*, the *primitiue fathers* do so plainly own to have been the *faith* and *profession* of the *church* in their days; and to have been delivered down and taught as the *doctrine* of the *apostles*; that an impartial considerer need not take much time to conclude, whether are the greater *innovators*, those that now believe and profess these tenets and practices; or they that disown or reject them. It is evident, that every point of that doctrine, which is now decried for *popery*, and basely stigmatized with the note, of *errors* introduced of late, and of a modern invention, is by many ages older than those who are charged with being the authors of them; that every particular article laid to the *ignorance* of the  *tenth century*, or to the *contrivance* of *pope Gregory*, are as expressly and clearly owned, and taught some ages before, as they are now at this day. That those great men were as down-right *Papists* in these points, as we are now. And that any *disturber* of *christianity* might have as well defamed them for believers of *novelties* and *errors*, as we are now at this present. The *faith* that they professed then, we profess now; and if any of our doctrine be *novelty*, it is a *novelty* of above 1200 years standing: and who can question it not to be of an older date? If it was the *publick belief* of the *christian world*, in the *fourth century*, who can be better witnesses of what was believed before them, in the *three first centuries*, than they? They tell us, that the doctrine they maintain and delivered, is the *faith of the catholick church*, received from their fore-fathers, and as it was taught by the *apostles*; and we don't find that in any of these points, they were challenged by any authority, or opposed by the *pastors* of the *church*, or any *writers* either then living or succeeding them; but received always with great *veneration*; and upon what grounds can any challenge them now? Is it possible, that any living now, can give a better account of what was believed

(a) See Mr. Gother's *Nubes testim.*

lieved and practised in the third age, than they that immediately followed them? Which will be more credible witness of what was done in forty eight; those that shall be alive fifty years hence; or they that are not yet to come these thousand years? If therefore these holy men declare to us the doctrine they believed; with an assurance, that it was the faith of the *catholick church*, so believed by their ancestors, and as they had received it from the apostles and their successors; do not they deserve better credit, than others, who coming a thousand years after, cry out against all these several points, that they are nothing but *novelty and error*? It is evident therefore that this noise of *novelty*, was nothing but a *stratagem* for the introducing of *novelties*; and that those that brought an infamy upon these points, by this aspersion, might with as great applause, and as easily have laid a scandal upon every other article of the christian faith, which they thought fit to retain, and have had them all exploded for *novelty*. And this has been so far done already, that even three parts of that doctrine, picked out by the *first reformers* for *apostolical*, and conform to the *word of God*, we have seen in our days clamoured against for *novelty*, and thrown by with a general approbation, and as clear evidence of the charge, as ever they laid by *transubstantiation* and the *primacy*.

## THE CONCLUSION.

THESE are the characters of the papist, as he is misrepresented, and as represented. And as different as the one is from the other, so different is the papist, as reputed by his maligners, from the papist as he is himself. The one is so absurd and monstrous, that it is impossible for any one to be of that profession, without first laying by all thoughts of christianity, and his reason too. The other is just contradictory to this: and without any farther apology, may be exposed to the perusal of all prudent and unpassionate considerers,

considerers, to examine if there be any thing in it that deserves the batrd. of any christian: or if it be not in every point wholly conform to the doctrine of Christ, and not in the least contrary to reason. The former is a papist, as he is generally apprehended by those, who have a protestant education; such as whosoever reflected on, is conceived to be a perverse, malicious sort of creature, superstitious, idolatrous, atheistical, cruel, bloody-minded, barbarous, treacherous, and so profane, and every way unhumane, that it is in some manner doubted, whether he be man, or no. The other is a papist, whose faith is according to the proposal of the catholick church; which by Christ's command he is obliged to believe and bear; and whose whole diff'ren in this world, is for obtaining salvation in the next. And is it not strange, that these two characters so directly opposite, so wholly unlike one to the other, that heaven and hell is not more, should agree to the same person? It is certainly a strange piece of injustice, and yet not at all strange to those, who know, that they that follow Christ shall be hated by the world, that those who study the wisdom of heaven, shall have the repute of fools; and that as many as attend the Lamb, shall be painted in the livery of satan; our forefathers were so before us; so were all the primitive christians, the apostles, and even the Lamb himself, our redeemer. Calumny ever followed them, misrepresentation waited upon them; and what wonder then that infamy was their constant attendant? And now if the orthodox christians have thus in all ages had their double character; one of justice exactly drawn from what they really believed and practised; the other of malice, copied from them as misrepresented: it is not at all strange, to find it so now in our days; when calumny, malice, ignorance, &c. are as powerful as ever; which, though from the beginning of the world, that is, above five thousand years, they have made it their chief busyness to paint, copy and misrepresent things and persons; yet they never did it with so much injury, so altogether unlikely, as they do now to the Papists; there being scarce any one point of their faith and profession, which they do not either blindly mistake, or basely disguise. The Papists believe it is convenient to pray before holy images, and give them an inferior

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inferior or relative respect. These describe the Papists praying to images, and worshipping them as idols. The Papists believe it is good to desire the prayers of the saints, and honour them as the friends of God. These paint out the Papists, as believing Saints to be their redeemers, and adoring them as Gods. The Papists believe, that Christ left a power in the priests of his church, to absolve all truly penitent sinners from their offences. These represent the Papists as believing, that the priests can infallibly forgive all such as come to confession, whether they repent, or no. The Papists believe there is power in the supreme pastor, upon due motives, of granting indulgences; that is, of releasing to the faithful such temporal penalties, as remained due to their past sins already remitted as to their guilt; on condition they perform such christian duties as shall be assigned them, i. e. humble themselves by fasting, confess their sins with a hearty repentance, receive worthily, and give alms to the poor, &c. These make the Papists believe, that the pope, for a sum of money, can give them leave to commit what sins they shall think fit, with a certain pardon for all crimes already incurred; and that there can be no danger of damnation to any, that can but make a large present to Rome, at his death. The Papists believe, that by the merits of Christ, the good works of a just man are acceptable to God, and through his goodness and promise, meritorious of eternal happiness. These report, that the Papists believe they can merit heaven by their own works, without any dependance on the work of our redemption. The Papists worship Christ really present in the sacrament, true God and man. These say they fall down to, and worship a piece of bread. Some Papists maintain the deposing power: these will have it to be an article of their faith, and that they are obliged to it by their religion. Some Papists have been Traitors, Rebels, Conspirators, &c. These make these villainies to be meritorious among the Papists, and that it is the doctrine of their church. And thus there is scarce any one thing belonging to their faith and exercise of their religion, which is not wrangled in the describing it, and injuriously misrepresented. And are not the Papists then such as they are commonly represented? No: they are no more alike, than the Christians

were of old under the persecuting emperors, to what they appeared, when cloathed with lions and bears skins they were exposed in the amphitheatre to wild beasts, under those borrowed shapes to provoke their savage opposites to greater fury; and that they might infallibly, and with more rage, be torn in pieces. Let any but search into the councils of the church of Rome, even that of Trent, than which none can be more popish; let them peruse her catechisms, that ad Parochos, or others set forth for pastors to instruct their flock, and for children, youth, and others to learn their christian doctrine, of which there is extant great variety in English. Let them examine Veron's rule of faith, and that set forth by the bishop of Meaux. Let them look into the spiritual books of direction; those of Bishop Sales, the Following of Christ, the Spiritual combat, Granada's works, and infinite others of this sort, which papists generally keep by them for their instruction: And then let them freely declare, whether the papists are so ill principled, either as to their faith or morals, as they are generally made appear. A little diligence in this kind, with a serious inquiry into their conversation, their manner of living and dying, will easily discover, that that of the beast, with which they are commonly exposed to publick, is not theirs, but only the skin, that is thrown over them. The papists own, that there are amongst them men of very ill lives, and that if every corner be narrowly sifted, there may be found great abuses, even of the most sacred things; that some in great dignities have been highly vicious, and carried on wicked designs: that some authors maintain and publish very absurd opinions, and of ill consequence: But these things are no part of their religion, they are the imperfections indeed, the crimes, the scandals of some in the communion; but such as they are so far from being obliged to approve, maintain or imitate, that they wish with all their heart, there had been never any such thing, and desire in these points a thorough reformation. Though the imprudence therefore, the failings, the extravagancies, the vices, that may be picked up throughout the whole society of Papists, are very numerous and great, and too too sufficient, if drawn together, for the composing a most deformed antichristian monster; yet the popery

popery of the Roman-catholicks is no such monster, as it is painted. Those things which are commonly brought against them being as much detested by them, as by the persons that lay the charge to their dis-favour: and having no more relation to them, than weeds and tares to the corn amongst which it grows; or chaff to the wheat, with which it lies mixed in one heap. A Papist therefore is no more than he is above represented; and whosoever enters that communion, has no obligation of believing otherwise, than as there is specified. And though in each particular, I have cited no authorities: yet for the truth and exactness of the character, I appeal to the council of Trent. And if in any point it shall be found to disagree, I again promise, upon notice, publickly to own it. And as for the other part, of the Papist misrepresented, it contains such tenets as are wrongfully charged upon the papists; and in as many respects, as it is contrary to the other character; in so many, it is contrary to the faith of their church: And so far, they are ready to disown them, and subscribe to their condemnation. And though any serious enquirer may be easily satisfied as to the truth of this; yet for a publick satisfaction, to shew that these abominable unchristian doctrines are no part of their belief; (however extravagant some men may be in their opinions;) the papists acknowledge that a faith assenting to such tenets, is wholly opposite to the honour of God, and destructive to the Gospel of Christ. And since it is lawful for any christian to answer Amen to such Anathema's, as are pronounced against things apparently sinful; the papists, to shew to the world that they disown the following tenets, commonly laid at their door; do here oblige themselves, that if the ensuing curses be added to those appointed to be read on the first day of Lent, they will seriously and heartily answer Amen to them all.

I. Cursed is he that commits idolatry; that prays to images or relicks, or worships them for God. *R. Amen.*

II. Cursed is every goddess worshipper, that believes the virgin *Mary* to be any more than a creature; that worships her, or puts his trust in her more than in God; that believes her above her Son, or that she can in any thing command him. *R. Amen.*

III. Cursed

III. Cursed is he that believes the saints in heaven to be his redeemers, that prays to them as such, or that gives God's honour to them, or to any creature whatsoever.

*R. Amen.*

IV. Cursed is he that worships any breaden God, or makes Gods of the empty elements of bread and wine.

*R. Amen.*

V. Cursed is he that believes, that priests can forgive sins, whether the sinner repent, or no: Or that there is any power in earth or heaven, that can forgive sins, without a hearty repentance, and serious purpose of amendment. *R. Amen.*

VI. Cursed is he that believes there is authority in the pope or any others, that can give leave to commit sin: Or that can forgive him his sins for a sum of money.

*R. Amen.*

VII. Cursed is he that believes, that independent of the merits and passion of *Christ*, he can merit salvation by his own good works; or make condign satisfaction for the guilt of his sins, or the pains eternal due to them.

*R. Amen.*

VIII. Cursed is he that contemns the word of God, or hides it from the people, on desighn to keep them from the knowledge of their duty, and to preserve them in ignorance and error. *R. Amen.*

IX. Cursed is he that undervalues the word of God, or that forsaking scripture, chuses rather to follow human traditions than it. *R. Amen.*

X. Cursed is he that leaves the commandments of God, to observe the constitutions of men. *R. Amen.*

XI. Cursed is he that omits any of the ten commandments, or keeps the people from the knowledge of any one of them, to the end they may not have occasion of discovering the truth. *R. Amen.*

XII. Cursed is he that preaches to the people in unknown tongues, such as they understand not; or uses any other means, to keep them in ignorance. *R. Amen.*

XIII. Cursed is he that believes that the *Pope* can give to any, upon any account whatsoever, dispensations to lie, or swear falsely; Or that it is lawful for any, at the last hour

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hour to protest himself innocent, in case he be guilty.

*R. Amen.*

XIV. Cursed is he that encourages sins, or teaches men to defer the amendment of their lives, on presumption of a death-bed repentance. *R. Amen.*

XV. Cursed is he that teaches men, that they may be lawfully drunk on a *friday*, or any other fasting-day; though they must not taste the least bit of flesh. *R. Amen.*

XVI. Cursed is he who places religion in nothing but a pompous shew consisting only in ceremonies; and which teaches not the people to serve God in spirit and truth.

*R. Amen.*

XVII. Cursed is he who loves or promotes cruelty, that teaches people to be bloody-minded, and to lay aside the meekness of *Jesus Christ*. *R. Amen.*

XVIII. Cursed is he who teaches it lawful to do any wicked thing, though it be for the interest and good of mother-church: or that any evil action may be done, that good may come of it. *R. Amen.*

XIX. Cursed are we, if amongst all those wicked principles and damnable doctrine, commonly laid at our doors, any one of them be the faith of our church: And cursed are we, if we do not as heartily detest all those hellish practices, as they that so vehemently urge them against us.

*R. Amen.*

XX. Cursed are we, if in answering, and saying, *Amen*, to any of these *curses*, we use any equivocations, or mental reservations; or do not assent to them in the common and obvious sense of the words. *R. Amen.*

*And can the papists then, thus seriously, and without check of conscience, say Amen to all these curses? Yes they can, and are ready to do it, whensoever, and as often as it shall be required of them. And what then is to be said of those who either by word or writing, charge these doctrines upon the faith of the church of Rome? Is a lying spirit in the mouth of all their prophets? I will say no such thing, but leave the impartial considerer to judge. One thing I can safely affirm, that the papists are foully misrepresented, and shew in publick as much unlike what they are, as the Christians of old under the standers of the gentiles; that they lie under*

under a great calumny, and severely smart in good name, persons and estates, for such things, which they as much and as heartily detest, as those who accuse them. But the comfort is, Christ has said to his followers, Ye shall be hated of all men, (Matt. x. 22.) and St. Paul, We are made a spectacle unto the world: and we do not doubt, but that whosoever bears this with patience, shall for every loss here, and contempr, receive a hundredfold in heaven.

**F I N I S.**



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